OUR MISSION

Baltimore Child Abuse Center provides caregivers and victims of child sexual abuse, trauma, and other Adverse Childhood Experiences with comprehensive forensic interviews, and medical and mental health treatment with a goal of preventing future trauma.
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2018 in Review
LEADING CHILD PROTECTION FOR THIRTY YEARS

This year Baltimore Child Abuse Center (BCAC) celebrates its thirtieth anniversary, as steadfast as ever in its mission to provide a voice for the voiceless. In this moment of #metoo, USA Gymnastics and countless other atrocities against children, BCAC has never been more vital. Breaking the silence one child at a time, reaching out to communities on ways to better protect children, and providing resources and training to get ahead of child abuse before it happens, BCAC continues to evolve, year after year, into the best version of itself.

To understand where BCAC is going, it is important to visit its past. Before BCAC, agencies investigating abuse worked in silos and children were interviewed multiple times, re-traumatizing them by an inefficient process that was meant to protect them. In 1987, Baltimore City State’s Attorney Stuart Simms and his chief Deputy Patricia Jessamy founded BCAC because they saw the need for an organization that helped kids in the aftermath of trauma and supported the community through education and advocacy. With BCAC there became one point of contact for the child and a trauma informed organization coordinating services on their behalf from medical, to investigative, to counseling and follow-up support in a child friendly space.

Being the third such center in the country, Jessamy and Simms took a leap of faith that proved to be an instant success. In the early years, BCAC focused on forensic interviewing and providing the best treatment for its kids. They soon expanded to include expert on-site medical services, community outreach programs and support groups. This rate of expansion has not ceased. Just in the last five years, BCAC has rolled out tools and held trainings across the country for youth-serving organizations to minimize their risk of abuse, launched an on-site mental health unit, and acquired its very own facility dog for emotional support in and out of the forensic interview room.

BCAC continues to blossom thanks to transformative leadership and strong inter-agency partnerships. When Adam Rosenberg (a former sex crimes prosecutor and Vice President at The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore) became Executive Director in 2008, he took BCAC to the next level. He adopted a child-centric approach, which led to 24-hour forensic interview services and expanded the definition of child victims that qualify for BCAC support. In the wake of the Jerry Sandusky case of 2011, it was evident that the current system in place protecting kids was failing, and thus BCAC ramped up its advocacy efforts for better laws and expanded trainings and services beyond child abuse and beyond the borders of Baltimore.

A cornerstone of BCAC’s success has also been fostering fantastic partners - relationships forged through co-writing legislation, cohosting events, or just working the same case. Co-location with some of these partners also plays a big part. Over the years three Baltimore Police Department Units (Child Abuse, Missing Persons, and Family Crimes), Baltimore City Child Protective Services, sex abuse unit, and most recently, advocates, attorneys, and therapists from the Office of the Baltimore City State’s Attorney and the House of Ruth (a domestic violence program) have all been housed in the same building.
Major Steven Hohman of BPD explains some of the benefits:

“BCAC is a one-stop shop. It makes the process easier for the survivor and their family because all the resources and wrap-around services are right there, without delay. BCAC also provides a seamless workflow that is hugely beneficial to the case. We can walk down the hall and discuss cases in real-time and bounce ideas off each other. There’s also this proactive approach that we engage in to get in front of things, like precautionary interviews, data analysis to recognize risk… it’s a collaborative effort.”

While it’s important to be trusted by colleagues, for BCAC it is even more important to be trusted and well known among Baltimore’s families, youth organizations, and children. BCAC gets its message out to the community through events like an annual Superhero Walk, a free, family-friendly event that raises awareness about child abuse in Baltimore City, and its Be A Hero Gala, which has raised over a million dollars for victims of abuse and violence and featured VIPs such as Sugar Ray Leonard and Robin Quivers. This year, an 80’s DJ party with Biz Markie will cap off the gala - it promises to be unforgettable!

By analyzing data and interacting with the community, BCAC can better understand the needs of neighborhoods and kids. BCAC uses this knowledge to inform child advocacy work. Their expertise is relied upon by lawmakers, leaders, and decision makers as the experts on child protection. BCAC takes this role seriously and has full-time staff in Annapolis fighting to increase protections for Maryland’s kids. Neil Meltzer, President and CEO of LifeBridge Health, explains their role as such:

“Adam and his team are fearless advocates for the population they serve. Not only can they articulate the problem, they have the facts and figures to back up their claims and can champion the need to improve how these cases are handled, both in Maryland and across the country. Adam is seen as a national expert in his field and is called upon to help other organizations around the country.”

Looking to the future, BCAC Executive Director Adam Rosenberg foresees a wave of change coming in the field of protecting childhood and child abuse awareness. Kids are starting to speak out, and lawmakers are starting to listen. Change happens when people are emboldened by the brave few, and as we see in the wake of recent school massacres, kids can mobilize too. “There needs to be a national movement about protecting children and childhood. Not working at them, but working with them.” This youthful optimism is felt throughout the halls of BCAC, where everyone manages to maintain hope and positivity in a field full of heartache. BCAC Board President Colby Simon affirms that “BCAC is the lighthouse in a sea of change. People are constantly coming and going in the field of youth services and families need to know there’s a constant presence in their lives. BCAC provides that long-term security, and that shelter from the storm.” BCAC has a long life ahead and the energy to make things happen. Here’s to another thirty, BCAC!
THE FABRIC OF BCAC: 4 TEAMS THAT BLAZE A TRAIL

Organizational success requires hard work done by a dedicated team – a team empowered to come up with creative solutions and one that works together as a unit. Behind the scenes are passionate staff who hone their craft and blaze a trail for all CACs nationwide.
FORENSIC INTERVIEWING AND FAMILY ADVOCACY: INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT

BCAC forensic interviewers meet one-on-one with the children within two hours of an incident. Interviewers are specially trained social workers and the conversations are conducted in a family-friendly environment. The department works hard to be culturally competent, serving families in multiple languages and utilizing best practices according to latest research. Unique to BCAC, interviewers are solely responsible for this piece, which allows them many freedoms.

“Being a dedicated interviewer allows you to focus on your craft and become the best you can be. You don’t wear as many hats and don’t have to focus on all the different aspects of the child’s life – just on helping a child find their voice. I can present at conferences and spearhead special projects because I’m not overwhelmed with other tasks,” explains Sammy Jo, a BCAC interviewer.

After the interview, BCAC family advocates become the family’s main point of contact on their path to healing. They refer family members to social services, set up medical and other appointments, and even do house calls. Advocates are considered the “first and last” points of contact for these families. They continuously develop creative initiatives to meet families’ needs, from providing household staples to Spanish-speaking parent support groups. This year alone BCAC plans to launch a spirituality group, a young males support group and a dating violence support group.

ANONYMOUS TESTIMONIALS

Mother of a child stated that the services in which she received from the advocacy and mental health team has helped her in more ways than one. It has helped her push forward and allowed her to form a closer bond with her children. Mom has been able to stay focused and on track. Mom appreciates all the help, guidance, and support she receives from Julia her therapist here at BCAC.

Child thanks everyone for helping him become a new person. He is no longer nauseous or angry. He is now more open and no longer shuts down. He said it’s always a pleasure coming to the center and knowing that he’s around supportive individuals.
The BCAC medical team was founded in 1994 and represented one of BCAC’s first major accomplishments - housing medical and forensic services under the same roof. Before BCAC existed, medical exams were held in an emergency room setting and often had to be completed multiple times until the child saw a specialist. At BCAC, specially trained pediatricians deliver the highest quality of care and comfort for the child while effectively gathering evidence. As leaders in their field, BCAC medical staff trains students and residents from Sinai, University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins Hospital, as well as forensic nurses from around the state.

In 2014 the medical team created a partnership with MATCH (Making All The Children Healthy) to provide free medical exams for kids entering foster care. Most of these children are not part of BCAC’s caseload - it’s just another way BCAC provides its superior services to an underserved population and makes it just a little bit easier for a child going through a difficult situation.

As BCAC Medical Director Dr. Wendy Gwirtzman Lane explains, “We are here to make sure that children are receiving the best medical care possible, and that we continue to communicate effectively with partners.”

In 2017, BCAC launched its Mental Health Clinic staffed by two full-time therapists. BCAC is now able to see children who need more time for recover and care.

BCAC’s partnership with BCDSS and HCAM/MATCH is very essential in ensuring that the health needs of children placed in BCDSS Foster Care are being met. BCAC’s amazing medical team is most often the first set of eyes to determine if the child has any unmet medical needs. The information they provide is crucial in providing the MATCH nurses and the child’s medical home the next steps and direction needed for the child who has experienced some level of mental and/or physical trauma. We are most appreciative for this partnership!
COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

BCAC’s Community Outreach and Education team strives to get ahead of violence before it happens. They educate adults on how to recognize, respond to and report abuse, and offer guidance on how to deliver the same message to kids. They also conduct audits, examining youth-serving organizations for possible vulnerabilities for their kids, either for free or for a fee. This is both a revenue stream for BCAC as well as a way to have far-reaching impact.

BCAC also runs programs that help kids and families on the path to recovery. One very successful example is the DIVAS program, which has grown tremendously over the past few years. This year, there are two parallel, 30 week long academic programs for teen girls. The girls learn how to find natural supports and prevent past trauma from defining their future. Via guest speakers and a variety of different activities, the girls also learn basic life skills, explore different career paths and make lifelong friends. As DIVAS leader Rosheda Harrell explains, “We provide holistic support. When their case comes up in court, we make sure someone from staff is there for whatever they need. You don’t just come here to learn a strategy, you learn that you have support here always.”

Due to an outpouring of interest and positive feedback, additional DIVAS programs were launched in a few local elementary schools last year. DIVAS is sure to expand further into more schools in the years ahead. BCAC trained more than 9,200 professionals in 15 states in 2017.

“DIVAS helped me by lifting my confidence and self-esteem. Before I got here, I isolated myself from nearly everyone and everything, so I’m very thankful for DIVAS. The group has helped me through a lot.”

“DIVAS give me confidence and its make me a powerful young lady!”

“DIVAS has taught me so much about loving myself, and how to value myself. If it weren’t for DIVAS I would be still stuck in my ways.”

“Now that I am a DIVA, I smile more, I avoid drama and troublemakers. I now have someone close to talk to if I need support.”

“I feel the DIVAS program helps the girls by giving them a safe space. Growing up I personally did not have a group like this. I love how easily we open up to each other with each week.” – DIVAS Mentor
ADVOCACY

BCAC does more than just help more than 1,000 children who come through our doors every year. We also advocate for ALL of Maryland’s children through our diligent legislative efforts in the Maryland General Assembly, Baltimore City Government and the U.S. Congress. We understand that one law can change thousands, or millions, of lives.

Over time, policy makers have come to rely upon BCAC to provide expertise and insight into a range of proposed and enacted legislation. Many of our elected officials are eager to partner with, and learn from, our dedicated policy and advocacy staff.

According to Del. Eric Luedtke (D-MD), “BCAC is the one of, if not the, most prominent voice on child abuse and neglect issues in the state. They’re trusted down here and the staff does an exceptional job staying on top of all policy-related issues. It’s gotten to the point that they’ve become extremely influential in Annapolis.”

SAMPLE OF BCAC’S MARYLAND ADVOCACY EFFORTS

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING VACATUER (2011)**

Lets a human trafficking victim vacate a “prostitution” conviction and expunge the records.

**ERIN’S LAW (2016)**

Develops and implements age appropriate education for all Maryland school age children to prevent sexual abuse and assault.

**STATEWIDE ABUSE REPORTING HOTLINE (2017)**

Consolidates Maryland’s various child abuse reporting numbers into one simple, statewide number.

**FAILURE TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE (2008-2018)**

Closes the final gap in Maryland’s mandatory reporter system by holding criminally accountable those who fail to report obvious child abuse.

**OTHER BAD ACTS (2018)**

This landmark law will finally help allow Maryland juries to hear of a sex predator’s other victims.
Dear Reader,

Thirty years ago, I, Adam Rosenberg, was a senior in High School, driving around town, listening to R.E.M.’s “It’s the End of the World as We Know It (and I feel fine),” preparing to leave home and encounter the world. I was unaware of childhood trauma and abuse, having only been exposed to such topics on a “very special” episode of Different Strokes and the occasional “stranger danger” lesson in a classroom. I went on to become a camp supervisor, political consultant, lawyer, prosecutor, not for profit executive, husband, and father, undeterred in my growth by child trauma or abuse. Looking back over thirty years, I realize how lucky I was, compared to thousands of others who I have met since.

Conversely, thirty years ago, I, Colby Simon, had just been sexually assaulted by my cousin who was taking care of me. The impact of that sexual assault changed my life – it impacted my future view of the world, the decisions I made, my health, and my happiness. I was the one in four girls who had been a victim of sexual abuse, and since that time, I’ve fought to reclaim my life thanks to the love and support of BCAC, family, friends, and my husband. Thanks to that web of support, I’m a mother, an advocate, and a community leader. No child should have to endure what I survived.

Since that time, much has happened in all of our lives. The world has changed greatly – we’re a more aware society that is constantly connected through technology. We’ve made amazing advances in all manner of fields in attempts to better our world and our future outcomes. One such achievement I’d put up over these four three decades is the birth of children’s advocacy center model and Baltimore Child Abuse Center (the third of its kind in the nation). I often refer to BCAC as the host of a Thanksgiving dinner which is only successful because of the extended family of partners who join us and bring their best to the table. No one wants to have Thanksgiving on their own, and child advocacy is never successful without its partners. Before CACs, never before had such varied disciplines from law enforcement to medicine to mental health to child welfare to law worked together so closely towards a common goal – that of child protection, and more importantly, healing.

The BCAC model has been one to remain vigilant and adaptive to responding to child abuse and trauma. When our team learned of the impact that witnessing violence had on children, we added that to our mission; when our team saw the data as to when child abuse occurred, where these children live who have been victims of abuse, and the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences, we adapted our response; as we saw the nation recoil in horror over the atrocities committed by Sandusky and Nasser and the indifference of their supervisors who knew of their sexual abuse, we stood up for what’s right. BCAC has always been able to react quickly and provide help where it was needed and when it was needed. From creating one of the first 24 hour crisis response CAC teams in the country to providing tools for youth serving organizations to prevent abuse from happening, BCAC anticipates the need and works to proactively make change.

Today’s child (likely not listening to R.E.M.) has far more to confront than we did growing up. Some new threats exist in the form of online exploitation, but many more are finally being understood that had always been there before. No child should have to face the pain and betrayal of trust that happens when abuse occurs. And our entire community should rally around that child to keep them all safe. And with greater awareness, comes greater protection. We’re saving kids’ lives every day – by either preventing the abuse from happening in the first place because BCAC ran a training for a school or camp, or because we’ve given voice to a child’s trauma early on and set that child on a path of wellness through medical and mental health services that were never available 30 years ago. For those kids we help today, it will no longer be “the end of the world” as we pledge to work as hard as we can to help them “feel fine”.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, partners, advocates, Manny the dog, and the thousands of children we have helped, we’re grateful for the opportunity to protect the community from abuse, grateful for your choice to be a hero and to stand up for kids, and for your support.

With gratitude,

Adam Rosenberg,  
Executive Director  

Colby Simon,  
Board President
2017 A YEAR BY THE #s

1,305 CHILDREN HELPED across all service areas

FAMILY ADVOCACY

159 rides to BCAC
156 treatment referrals made
573 nutritious snacks

FORENSIC INTERVIEWS

698 Ages
243 After normal business hours

65% FEMALE
35% MALE

TYPES OF CASES

519 Sexual Abuse/Assault
105 Physical Abuse
12 Internet Crimes Against Children
12 Child Witnesses to Homicide

Baltimore City School Initiative

155 participants

DIVAS TEEN SUPPORT GROUP

80 teen participants
40 participated at their schools
40 came to BCAC

Medical exams conducted

652

$492,980.35
Raised from donations
$278,321.78 from special events

$492,980.35
$278,321.78

38 Volunteers
138 Volunteer hours

9,244 Professionals trained in
15 States

Which led to 45,000 children protected
Trained staff at 37 summer camps!

115 partner organizations helped BCAC to protect children, and raise money and awareness

What was New in 2017?

BCAC staff & partners collected: 108 COATS for families

FROZEN was played 520 times in the family room

108
520

BCAC staff: 108 COATS

Manny helped 185 CHILDREN

540 children participated in ART THERAPY
Adam Rosenberg took the helm as Executive Director of BCAC after spending eight years as a prosecutor and three years as a leader in the nonprofit sector. He had his sights on BCAC for a while, being introduced to their work while he prosecuted sex crimes in the Baltimore City State's Attorney’s office. “We prosecuted the worst of the worst. BCAC was a place for healing and I saw how invaluable they were to the community,” recalled Adam. When the offer came in 2008, he didn’t think twice before accepting the position that would turn into his life’s work.

BCAC had a strong foundation of institutional trust and proven effectiveness in the Baltimore community. Using this as a springboard, Adam set big goals to take BCAC to the next level – until the unexpected happened. Just a few months into Adam’s tenure, the economic recession hit and BCAC’s operational budget took a huge hit. Sustainability and a diversified revenue stream became priority number one, as well as the need to generally “do more with less.”

Out of this organizational rebirth came several major accomplishments. BCAC launched its website and rolled out a public awareness campaign, “What you don’t know can hurt me,” using internal data to target neighborhoods from which BCAC saw the most instances of violence. This created a public dialogue about child abuse and put BCAC out there, educating the community on what can be done to protect kids. Community outreach and education continues today in many forms, from the DIVAS program that mentors teen girls who have endured trauma to BCAC’s widespread summer camp trainings, which teach staff how to recognize, respond and report child abuse - and are close to Adam’s heart as a former camper and counselor himself.

Launching 24-hour forensic interview services was another major milestone achieved during Adam’s first years. “60% of abuse was happening outside of business hours. We needed to become trauma-informed, accommodating the child’s needs as opposed to having the child accommodate ours,” explained Adam. This required major staff restructuring and separate funding provisions, which they secured from National Children’s Alliance and Governor’s Office of Crime Control.

Furthering this child-centered approach, BCAC began to help children impacted by Adverse Childhood Experiences and participated in the US Department of Justice’s Defending Childhood Initiative which responded to child witness to violence. BCAC expanded its program to include child witnesses to homicide and gun violence, victims of physical abuse and human trafficking cases. This pivot to proactively meet the needs of the community and possibly avert crisis has been a steadfast goal during the past decade and provides BCAC’s wealth of services to more kids who need it.

Close inter-agency partnerships paired with community outreach lead into advocacy. The Sandusky case in 2011 was a watershed moment for BCAC. Adam capitalized on the institutional momentum to affect change in Maryland’s legislative agenda. What was previously an internal, private organization became forward facing and is now regarded as a regional and national leader.

“Adam is the strongest advocate I’ve come across on these issues,” remarks Michael Lore, Chief of Staff for State Senator Susan Lee (D-Montgomery)
County). “I think Adam is pragmatic about what we can do and knows which issues to focus on. Senator Susan Lee is extremely grateful for his insights. He frequently stops by the office to educate us on these issues and it’s because of advocates like Adam that Sen. Lee can do her work.”

BCAC is uniquely suited to advocate on behalf of children because they see the issues on a daily basis. Pair this with Adam’s legislative background and BCAC has become relied upon from policymakers from Annapolis to DC and beyond. Delegate Luedtke (D-Montgomery County) claims, “Adam is one of the most effective advocates I’ve worked with. He’s a brilliant policy advocate passionate about working with kids and understands the politics of how things are done here in Annapolis. He navigates the organizations and the players to produce some really great, effective legislation for kids.”

Adam’s goals for BCAC’s future remain high. Furthering the legislative agenda, continuing to support staff-led programs and community outreach campaigns, maintaining the highest standards of practice and organizational sustainability remain on the agenda. But when pressed, Adam’s vision is loftier: “There needs to be a national movement about protecting children and childhood. Child abuse needs to stand on its own. It needs to stand apart from sexual assault or domestic abuse – because its just different than those crimes which impact adults. We need to not only respond to childhood trauma, but protect the voiceless.”

Teresa Huizar, Executive Director of the National Children’s Alliance (BCAC’s national accrediting organization), sums up Adam’s leadership: “BCAC has a long history of providing important services to the most vulnerable children in Baltimore. Under Adam’s leadership that work has expanded to include a leadership role in the state of Maryland and among BCAC’s urban peers. Adam has been an excellent and agile leader in challenging times. Whether successfully navigating funding challenges or partner agency turnover, Adam has demonstrated an impressive ability to address those challenges effectively while staying focused like a laser on the bigger mission. That’s transformative leadership.”

**Congratulations Adam on ten years well served!**
**Understanding Childhood Trauma**

**WHAT IS TRAUMA AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT CHILDREN?**

Trauma is defined as a very difficult or unpleasant experience that causes someone to have mental or emotional problems usually for a long time.

### Breakdown of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Neglect
- Emotional Abuse
- Physical Neglect
- Household Substance Abuse
- Parental Separation/Divorce
- Household Mental Illness
- Mother Treated Violently
- Incarcerated Household Member

**Frequency of ACEs (%)**

- Nearly two-thirds of young children attending a Head Start program either witnessed or experienced community violence.
- More than half of children aged 2-5 experience severe stress in their life.
- 78% of children experience more than one type of trauma.

### WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

**Health**

Childhood trauma can lead to long-term health effects such as increased rates of broken bones, diabetes, heart disease, obesity, cancer and stroke.

**Money**

Childhood trauma costs taxpayers roughly $120 billion a year. The amount we spend on the effects of trauma are similar to the costs of other high-cost health conditions such as stroke and Type 2 diabetes.

**Behavior**

Children exposed to trauma are more likely to engage in behaviors such as self-harm, unsafe sex, operating vehicles at high speeds, alcohol and substance use, assaulting others, stealing, running away, and/or prostitution.
SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

LEARN MORE
Take the time to learn and recognize the different childhood traumas and how we can help by attending one of our upcoming seminars.

SEEK HELP
We all experience mental health, emotional and behavioral issues at some point or another and it can be easier to “bounce back” when we have the proper support. See below for a list of local resources for additional help.

TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES
We can reduce the chances of trauma negatively impacting our health with exercise, mindfulness practices, good nutrition, adequate sleep, and healthy attachments with our children.
A TRUSTED PARTNER

“We constantly review each other’s involvement in particular cases. It’s not a matter of anyone providing oversight over anyone else, it’s holding each other accountable and looking at cases to see if we can recognize any gaps in services and address them much more rapidly than it would be if everyone stayed in their silos... [BCAC] are incredibly good facilitators; they’re the anchor for everybody to come together. I see this as the greatest asset of having a relationship with BCAC.”

Major Steven Hohman, Commanding Officer Special Investigations, Baltimore Police Department

“Through BCAC’s close working relationship with the Archdiocese of Baltimore’s Office of Child and Youth Protection, many institutions have been able to benefit from the resources they have developed collaboratively to ensure both adults and children are able to take advantage of high quality training programs.”

Mary Ellen Russell, Executive Director of the Maryland Catholic Conference

BEYOND BALTIMORE

“BCAC has had (and continues to have) an outsize impact in the State of Maryland and among its urban peers. BCAC was at the forefront of prevention work in youth serving organizations after the Sandusky case made national headlines. And, BCAC has been a leader in developing a MDT response to commercially sexually exploited children cases.

Moreover, because of Adam’s knowledge and expertise in public policy he has moved policy initiatives forward in Maryland that elevated the role of CACs. As a co-founder of NCA’s Urban Forum Initiative (a peer learning initiative among the nation’s 50 largest CACs), he and BCAC have been at the forefront of sharing innovative programming among and between CACs in urban settings.”

Teresa Huizar, Executive Director of the National Children’s Alliance

LEGISLATIVE INFLUENCE

“A lot of groups proposing legislation are just policy organizations. BCAC is unique because they do the policy work and they also do the direct work with the kids on a day-to-day basis. They bring stories that are grounded in the reality of what’s happening with kids and what we need to be doing to protect them, which is priority number one.”

Del. Eric Luedtke (D-Montgomery County)

“Adam is the strongest advocate I’ve come across on these issues. He’s pragmatic about what we can do and knows which issues to focus on. Senator Lee is extremely grateful for his insights; he frequently stops by the office to educate us and it’s because of advocates like Adam that she can do her work - advocates who are experts in the field so that we know where to focus our efforts and can respond to the real needs.”

Michael Lore, Office of State Sen. Susan Lee (D-Montgomery County)
INNOVATIVE APPROACH

“What stands out the most to me are the individual success stories. Unlike other organizations, there is not a “one size fits all” solution that can be implemented to help each victim. This organization requires “hand-to-hand combat” to address the unique circumstances around each child. It’s a difficult and time-consuming job, but one that is so satisfying to the employees of BCAC. Additionally, they have been responsible for advocating for no less than a half dozen laws that have been passed, including protecting victims of human trafficking, interfering with reporting, family abuse and neglect, awareness/education/prevention and many others.

BCAC is fearless when it comes to protecting the rights of these children and will work tirelessly to get to the right people and assure that all appropriate organizations have the infrastructure necessary to help these children. They are passionate about the cause and have carefully crafted strong community partnerships to assure their success at all levels.”

Neil Meltzer, President and CEO of Lifebridge Health

PLAYING A CRITICAL ROLE

“BCAC is an invaluable resource that provides both an immediate response that is effective and sensitive, and also very importantly initiatives that truly help prevent the horrors of child abuse in the first place. We have mostly worked with BCAC on systemic ways to try to prevent incidents, through increased and improved education and screening. The staff at BCAC is remarkable, filled with thoughtful and experienced professionals who are committed to doing the difficult, long-term work so critical to protecting future generations of children.

BCAC serves a critical role of convening and coordination--bringing together people and insights from around the state to address these very complex issues with thoughtfulness, care, and credibility. BCAC is a wise and persistent voice on behalf of the voiceless. There is great pain in this area of work, but I shudder to think of the additional trauma our community would suffer without the leadership and professionalism of BCAC.”

David Kinkopf of Gallagher Evelius & Jones, LLP

STATE-WIDE CHANGE

“BCAC has spearheaded several initiatives that have a statewide impact such as the mandated reporter online training. In addition, BCAC has greatly enhanced its training, education and community outreach offerings for professionals in the field, specifically through the Online Training Institute. I have had the pleasure of working with Adam on a few projects and his professionalism, willingness to serve, and commitment to children is evident in all that he does. These qualities no doubt permeate the organization at all levels and is reflective of the work BCAC does to improve the lives of Baltimore’s children.”

Jessica Wheeler, Senior Director of Juvenile Justice and Victim Services, Governor’s Office of Crime Control & Prevention

“Baltimore Child Abuse Center (BCAC) has long been an invaluable partner to the State in our shared goals of reducing child abuse and increasing the availability of trauma-informed care for victims of abuse. BCAC is uniquely situated to positively impact the lives of child victims due to the commitment Adam and the rest of BCAC’s staff have to systemic and strategic thinking and innovative solutions. Adam’s tireless leadership advocating for increased resources and services for child victims has led to better outcomes for not only BCAC but for child advocacy centers across Maryland.”

Christopher B. Shank, Chief Legislative Officer, Office of Governor Larry Hogan
Children who have been sexually abused may display a wide variety of emotional, behavioral, or physical symptoms. The signs below are not all inclusive or exclusive but can serve as a guide to understanding an abused child’s behavior.

**Learn More:** Possible Signs of Child Abuse.

**REPORT SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE**

Studies have shown that only 12% of child sexual abuse is ever reported. If you have concerns about the abuse or neglect of a child you must contact Child Protective Services to make a report. The reporting number for Baltimore City is 410-361-2235. In case of an emergency, please dial 911.

**Learn more:** How To Report Suspected Abuse.

**ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS WHO ARE SOCIAL WORKERS, TEACHERS, DOCTORS AND NURSES TO LEARN WHAT SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE IS**

Who are mandated reporters? Certain professionals in the community are mandated to report suspicions of abuse in Maryland. Social workers, teachers, doctors and nurses are all mandated reporters.

**Take our free training for Mandated Reporters.**

**FIGHT ANY IMPULSE YOU MAY HAVE THAT "GOOD PEOPLE DON'T DO BAD THINGS" AND LISTEN TO KIDS**

Studies have shown that only 12% of child sexual abuse is ever reported. Children are often reluctant to speak up because they don't think anyone will believe them. Often, they have been made to feel that they caused the abuse or failed to stop it. Listen to kids.

**KNOW THAT CHILD ABUSE IS EVERYWHERE, HIDING IN PLAIN VIEW**

Unfortunately, only about 1 in 10 children who have been sexually abused report it. A child who has been sexually abused will often keep the secret for years or even decades. Sexual abuse is a crime of secrecy, and offenders will rely on this secrecy to continue abuse.

**Learn about Ways to Prevent Child Abuse.**

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**LEARN MORE, DO MORE, BMORE FOR CHILDREN**

www.baltimorechildabusecenter.org
Keeping Our Children Safe: Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention

Teach Kids Body Safety

- No one is allowed to touch your private parts
- Private parts are the parts of your body a bathing suit covers
- Ask before touching & you can say NO to anyone touching you
- Don't keep secrets!
- No one should take pictures of your private parts
- Be share aware. Think before you text, snap, & post

Ask Tough Questions of Caregivers & YSOs

1. Have the staff been fingerprinted and background checked?
2. What are your policies & procedures for physical contact with children?
3. How do you communicate with & discipline children?
4. How are you educating staff & kids to minimize risk of incidents?
5. What types of touching do you think are appropriate or inappropriate with children?
6. What is your process for reporting abuse and communicating suspicions and/or incidents to parents?

Empower Kids & Speak Up

- Be accessible & non-judgmental
- Ongoing communication & dialogue about safety
- Use natural teaching moments
- Model healthy relationships & language
- Encourage your child to come to you with any questions
- Monitor internet use

Baltimore Child Abuse Center

410-296-6147
training@bcaci.org
www.baltimorechildabusecenter.org
MANNY
BCAC FACILITY DOG

BREED  BLACK LABRADOR RETRIEVER
BIRTHDATE  07/19/2015
WEIGHT  70 POUNDS
HOBBIES  VISITING KIDS, STORY TIME,
          FETCHING TENNIS BALLS
          & NAPPING
FAVORITE TOY  STUFFED ANIMALS
Teachers, Coaches, Nurses and Other Mandatory Reporters: the foot soldiers in the war on child abuse.

Professionals like teachers and coaches are those who most often bring child abuse to light. This is true across the country and right here in Maryland. Statistically, professionals report about 60 percent of all child abuse, according to the federal Children’s Bureau. Teachers and school personnel lead the way, with about a quarter of all reports. Parents and family friends trail far behind, with a scant 6 percent each of reports.

During our advocacy and training work around the state, it has become clear that, despite the law, not all professionals report suspected child abuse. Over time, doctors, social workers, teachers and others have stated various reasons: “I wasn’t sure it really happened.” “It won’t help.” “I didn’t know what number to call.” “I just told my principal.” “I was just getting to know the family.” “I didn’t think that was abuse.”

BCAC has worked hard to improve mandatory reporting in our state. We have conducted hundreds of trainings for mandatory reporters in Maryland, and we have also developed, in coordination with the Governor’s Office on Crime Control and Prevention, a free online training, available at reportabusemd.com. We have advocated strongly for legislation that would improve the statewide number to report abuse, and currently serve on a hotline task force to achieve that goal. We have advocated for years for legislation that would impose criminal penalties on those stubborn few mandatory reporters who refuse to report known child abuse.

We have learned that one effective way to cut through the excuses and improve reporting is to train mandatory reporters. Not surprisingly, lack of training is cited by 31-41% of professionals who fail to report abuse, according to a 2015 study by 31-41% of professionals who fail to report abuse, according to a 2015 study at the University of New Hampshire.

Through the numerous trainings BCAC conducts with mandatory trainers in Maryland, our staff has seen firsthand a patchwork of knowledge that varies drastically by profession and employer. Many reporters are confused about how much proof they need, or incorrectly fear they can be prosecuted for making an erroneous report. Many do not know that, under Maryland law, they must make a formal report OUT to an investigative agency and UP to her/his supervisor – despite what their bosses tell them to do. BCAC even has a free website www.ReportAbuseMD.com with training available on this important topic.

However, and despite past efforts by BCAC, Maryland has no statewide requirement that mandated reporters be trained. BCAC supported two training bills in 2018. One such bill, SB131/HB600, required training for all mandatory reporters, regardless of profession. HB600 was sponsored by Delegate Susan McComas (R-Harford) in the House and Chairman Bobby Zirkin (D- Baltimore County) and Senator Susan Lee (D-Montgomery County) in the Senate as SB 131. HB600, as amended, passed the House but neither bill passed the Senate.

A bill aimed at improving child abuse training in the schools fared much better. HB1072, which was proposed by State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect and sponsored by Delegate C.T. Wilson (D- Charles), provides that all public and some non-public schools shall train employees on preventing, identifying and reporting child abuse. Delegate Eric Luedtke (D-Montgomery) also worked to secure the bill’s passage. HB1072, which passed both the House and Senate, and was signed into law on April 10, 2018.

Finally, through numerous conversations and research, we know that a few mandatory reporters will simply not report suspected child abuse no matter how much training they receive. At root, plain old self-interest is often at play. “I don’t want to get involved.” “I can’t believe my colleague would have done this.” “We will handle it in-house; we don’t want the publicity.” For these lapsed reporters, there are uncertain consequences in Maryland. Unlike 48 other states, there are no criminal or civil penalties in Maryland if a mandatory reporter fails to report child abuse. BCAC sees that additional provision as critical to protecting children from abuse and the failure to report.

BCAC runs trainings for dozens of camps each summer.
ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACE)

ACES: HISTORY AND RELEVANCE

ACES are Adverse Childhood Experiences that harm children's development so much so, that the effects emerge in adulthood. The ACE study was a public health study initiated in 1995 by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and Kaiser Permanente and it uncovered a link between child maltreatment & experiences and later life health outcomes and well-being. Findings suggest that some of the worst health and social problems arise as a consequence of adverse childhood experiences.

WHAT ARE ACES AND WHO HAS THEM?

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Neglect
- Emotional Abuse
- Physical Neglect
- Household Substance Abuse
- Parental Separation/Divorce
- Household Mental Illness
- Mother Treated Violently
- Incarcerated Household Member

ACEs are common. Approximately two-thirds (65%) of adults have at least one ACE.

If a person has one ACE, there's a nearly 90 percent chance that they have two or more.
WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT ACES?

- Adults with an ACE score of 4+ were 460% more likely to have depression and 19% of adults with an ACE score of 4+ have attempted suicide.
- High ACE scores yield increased rates of broken bones, diabetes, heart disease, obesity, cancer, and stroke.
- Cost to taxpayers is roughly $120 billion a year.
- Victims of early ACEs are more vulnerable to being revictimized by sexual violence. Women with an ACE score of 4+ are 500% more likely to experience domestic violence and 900% more likely to become victims of rape.
- High ACE scores can lead to greater likelihood of school dropout as well as teen pregnancy rates.

SO WHAT CAN WE DO? BUILDING RESILIENCY

LEARN THE FACTS
Take the time to learn and recognize the different childhood traumas so that we can better identify who experiences ACES.

TAKE CARE OF OUR MINDS & BODIES
We can reduce the likelihood of ACES negatively impacting our health with exercise, mindfulness practices, good nutrition, adequate sleep, healthy social interactions and seeking mental health treatment.

BUILD TRAUMA INFORMED RESPONSES
It is important not to re-victimize individuals seeking services. Since the ACE study, many pediatrician offices, homeless shelters, classrooms, and police departments integrate trauma-informed approaches.

TAKE ACTION
If you know of any abuse or neglect, make a report! Seek help from colleagues, supervisors and/or friends.

Sources:
2. Jane Stevens, ACES Too High, www.acesTooHigh.com

Contact Baltimore Child Abuse Center for more information
www.baltimorechildabusecenter.org
410-396-6147
STEVEN KELLY, ESQ.

Steven Kelly has a lifelong commitment to improving the plight of crime victims and their families. A nationally recognized lawyer at Sanford Heisler Sharp LLP, Kelly has developed a practice focused on enforcing crime victims’ rights in criminal cases and obtaining significant compensation from offenders and third parties in civil cases. He became a victim advocate at age 14, shortly after his older sister was sexually assaulted and murdered. Prior to graduating from Georgetown Law with honors in 2003, Kelly lobbied the U.S. Congress and various state legislatures for victims’ rights legislation and provided training to victim advocates, prosecutors, and judges throughout the country. Recognizing Mr. Kelly’s expertise in crime victims’ rights, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan in 2015 appointed him to serve as the chair of the State Board of Victim Services, the leading advisory board to the governor on issues relating to crime victims.

STATE’S ATTORNEY MARILYN MOSBY

Marilyn Mosby became the 25th State’s Attorney for Baltimore City in 2015, making her the youngest chief prosecutor of any major American city. Mosby’s passion for becoming an attorney and reforming the criminal justice system stemmed from her experience growing up in inner-city Boston, where she lost her cousin to a horrific incident of violence. After working at the Office of the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City as a prosecutor and then for a Fortune 100 company, she was elected as State’s Attorney and transformed the State’s Attorney’s office into a national model for progressive holistic prosecution, exemplifying the mantra of not just being “tough on crime” but more importantly, “smart on crime.” Mosby received her BA with honors from Tuskegee University and JD from Boston College Law School.

DET. JEFFREY MELLOTT

Detective Mellott has been with the Baltimore Police Department for 10 years and in the Child Abuse Unit since 2014. Mellott investigates his cases thoroughly with a true passion for seeking justice. He develops rapport with victims and goes above and beyond to ensure their trust in him and the criminal justice system. He investigated an open rape case from 2012 so effectively that evidence he found provided probable cause to arrest and charge the suspect, who is awaiting trial. He then secured negligence and accessory charges on a second suspect. The Child Abuse Unit is proud to have such a passionate Detective among its ranks.

DEL. SUSAN MCCOMAS (R-HARFORD COUNTY)

Susan McComas has been a member of the Maryland House of Delegates since 2003, representing District 35B in Harford County. She currently serves on the Judiciary Committee and has sponsored legislation aiming to improve protections of children against abuse as well as Maryland’s mandated reporting system. McComas sits on the Family Law and Juvenile Law subcommittees and the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics, to name just a few. She is also the President of the Women Legislators of Maryland and the Deputy Minority Whip. She is an attorney, sole practitioner, at the Law Offices of Bruce J. Gilbert and received her BA from Johns Hopkins University, MA from the University of Colorado, and JD from the University of Wyoming College of Law.

CYNTHIA PERKINS

Cynthia has over 30 years of service to Baltimore City Department of Social Services in child welfare. She is currently the Program Manager of Child Protective Services, work she has done for most of her career. Her dedication has been instrumental in protecting the children of Baltimore City.
STACIE SAWYER
Stacie Sawyer joined Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office in 2006 and the Special Victim’s Unit in 2012. She has prosecuted many high profile and complicated domestic violence cases. Sawyer recently convicted a defendant of child sexual abuse, two juvenile defendants for carjacking and sexual assault, and prosecuted a complex hostage case, requiring the coordination of many witnesses. She was instrumental in winning a Frye-Reed hearing on the use of Alternate Light Source in interpersonal violence examinations. She graduated James Madison University with honors and received her JD from the University of Georgia School of Law.

CHAIRMAN ROBERT (BOBBY) ZIRKIN (D-BALTIMORE COUNTY)
Bobby Zirkin is in his third term in the Maryland State Senate, representing Maryland’s District 11 in Baltimore County, after previously serving two terms in the Maryland House of Delegates. He has served as the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee chair since 2015. He is proud of his many legislative accomplishments and brings passion, energy, experience, and integrity to his work. Bobby has continuously worked hard on issues of education, juvenile justice, and child welfare. Bobby is a fierce advocate for his constituency and is truly making a difference in the community and for Maryland. He is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University, earned his JD at Georgetown Law, and runs a private law firm, Zirkin and Schmerling Law.

PAST WINNERS

2017
Senator Jim Brochin, State Senator, State of Maryland (D-Baltimore)
Kerry Hannan, Ph.D., Director of Forensic Services, Baltimore Child Abuse Center
Robin Harvey, Acting Director, Baltimore City Department of Social Services
Detective Darrilynn Tyson, Child Abuse Unit, Baltimore Police Department
Arneisha Woods, Victim Advocate, Juvenile Court Division of the State’s Attorney Office

Detective Raynard Johnson, Child Abuse Unit, Baltimore Police Department
Delegate Brooke Lierman, State Delegate, State of Maryland (D-Baltimore City)
Senator Susan Lee, State Senator, State of Maryland (D-Montgomery)
Delegate Nick Mosby, State Delegate, State of Maryland (D-Baltimore City)
Cindy Weese, Investigator, Special Victim’s Unit, State’s Attorney’s Office
Zanvyl and Isabelle Krieger Fund, Community Partners

2016
Kelly DaCunha, Forensic Social Worker, State’s Attorney’s Office
Monika Haskins, Family Service Case Worker, Baltimore City Child Protective Services

2015
Detective Dennis Bailey, Child Abuse Unit, Baltimore Police Department
Andrew Donelan, LCSW-C, Unit Manager, Baltimore City Department Child Protective Services
Delegate Nick Mosby, State Delegate, State of Maryland (D-Baltimore City)

2014
Neil Meltzer, Chief Executive Officer, LifeBridge Health Systems
Angelique Redmond, Community Activist
Jen Sachs, BCAC Board President
Michael Sachs, President, Party City of Maryland, Inc
Ellen Wasserman, Philanthropist
Visit www.ReportAbuseMD.com

Everyone in Maryland is obligated to report child abuse and neglect. Understand the law, recognize the signs, be a hero. Report abuse.
Forensic Interviewers:
• Kerry Hannan, PhD, Director of Forensic Services
• Crimson Barocca, LCSW-C, Forensic Interview Program Supervisor
• Cassandra Chavez, LGSW, Forensic Services Coordinator/Bilingual Interviewer
• Samantha Jo Kanekuni, LCSW-C, Bilingual Interviewer
• Ericka Leonard, LGSW, Forensic Interviewer
• Ja’Ara McCoy, Forensic Services Assistant
• Shannon Wood, LCSW-C, Forensic Interviewer
• Manny, CCI Facility Dog

Medical:
• Wendy Lane, MD, MPH, Director of Medical Services
• Erin Sherman, FNE-A/P, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
• Erica Lazarus, Medical Clinic Coordinator

Mental Health:
• Julia Knach, LCSW-C, Mental Health Program Supervisor
• Katie Esser, LGSW, Bilingual Child and Family Therapist

Anti-Human Trafficking and Exploitation:
• Iona Rudisill, LGSW, Program Supervisor
• Janet Imobisa, Coordinator

Family Advocacy:
• Denielle Randall, LGSW, Family Advocacy Program Supervisor
• Tiasha Fernando, Child Development Specialist
• Philip Goldberg, Family Advocate
• Vera Lee, Child Care Intake Coordinator
• Kelly Mack, Child Care Coordinator
• Paulia Olivarez, Bilingual Family Advocate
• Sheryl Williams, Chaplain, Family Advocate

Community Outreach and Education:
• Drew Fidler, LCSW-C, Director of Training and Education
• Joyce Lombardi, Esq., Director of Government Affairs and Legal Services
• Alison D’Alessandro, Senior Policy and Program Specialist
• Molly Farrugia, Training Coordinator
• Roscheda Harrell, DIVAS Specialist and Schools Liaison

Integrated Resource Financial Development:
• LaDonna Morgan, Chief Operating Officer
• Hilary Parker, Director of Philanthropy
• LeeAnne Woods, Esq., Director of Grants Management
• Caroline Berger, Communications and Development Coordinator
• Lydia Nicholson, Grants Management Coordinator
• Chuck Ritz, Facilities Manager
• Brielle Weber, ACEs Coordinator

Adam Rosenberg, Esq.
Executive Director

BCAC Staff 2018