

## Child Advocacy Centers: Working with Child Victims of Sex Trafficking



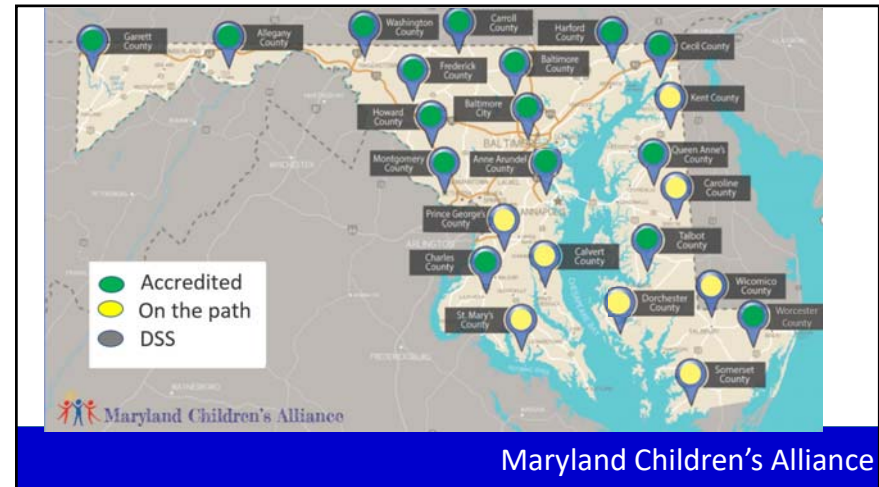
**Standards  
for Accredited  
Member Programs**

ADAPTED FOR  
**VICTIMS of CHILD TRAFFICKING**  
**MARYLAND CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE**  
**CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS**  
JULY 2019



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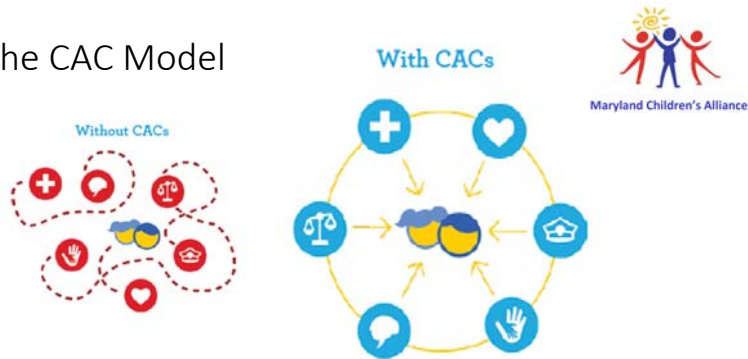
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## The CAC Model



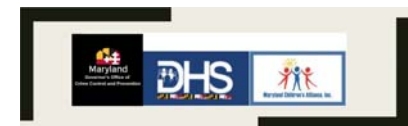
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## Joint Project of Maryland Children's Alliance, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the Department of Human Services

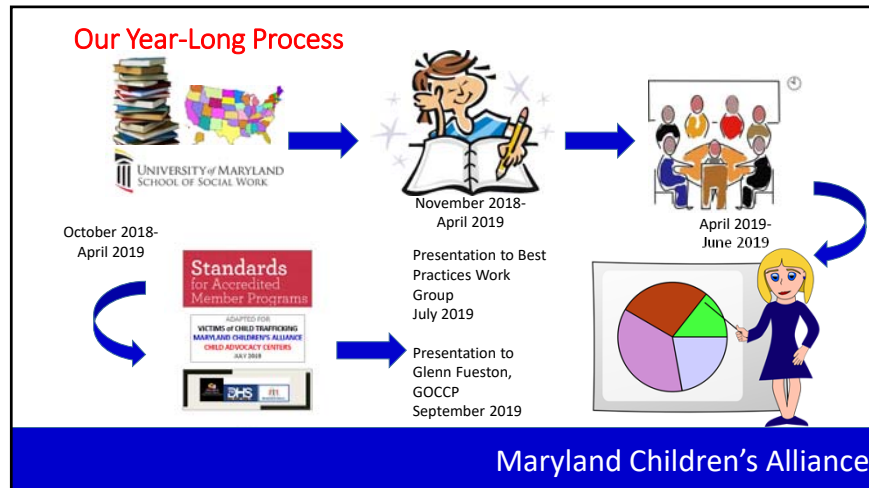
Gov. Hogan declared that, "To ensure Maryland is identifying and providing services to child victims of human trafficking, the Child Advocacy Center Best Practices Workgroup, co-staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the Maryland Children's Alliance, and the Department of Human Services, is researching and developing a protocol to identify and provide services to child human trafficking victims for **Child Advocacy Centers**. This will broaden the types of services for child victims using a trauma-informed approach."

August 9, 2018:  
Governor's Press Conference:  
Human Trafficking



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### Overview: 2019 Maryland Survey

Survey of Maryland CACs on Child Sex Trafficking, Child Sex Trafficking Victims Initiative, University of Maryland, School of Social Work, Amelia Rubenstein, MSW, LCSW-C, Clinical Research Specialist

- Since 2013 and through Sept. 2019, there have been **610 reports** of child sex trafficking screened into Maryland's DSS database.
- **18 CACs** reported providing services to victims of child trafficking.
- Forensic Interviewing, Victim Advocacy and Mental Health services are most frequently provided by the CAC.

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### What to Expect

Each Standard is discussed independent of the rest; so that, if need be, CAC staff and MDT partners can refer to one issue at a time.

There is repetition within each standard.

We begin with the Standard as written; *and using italics*, expand them with additional protocols, references and practices for the trafficking case.

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### Standards of Accreditation

- Multidisciplinary Team
- Cultural Competency and Diversity
- Forensic Interviews
- Victim Support and Advocacy
- Medical Evaluation
- Mental Health
- Case Review
- Case Tracking
- Organizational Capacity
- Child-Focused Setting

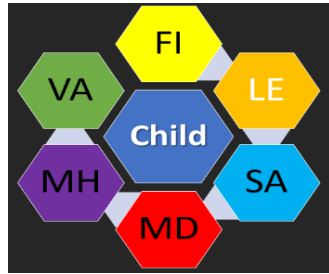
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National Children's Alliance  
The Force Behind Children's Advocacy Centers

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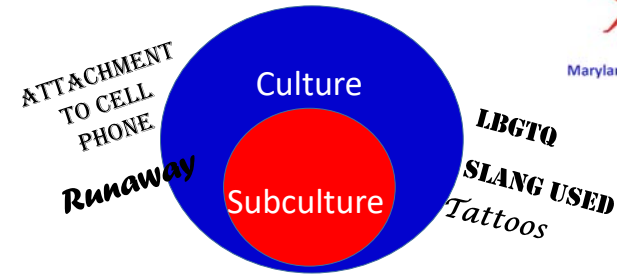
### Unique Qualities of CAC Child Trafficking Protocols: Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT)



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### Unique Qualities of CAC Child Trafficking Protocols: Cultural Competency and Diversity



P. 38 "Victims of child trafficking are...a unique population requiring a highly specialized and coordinated response."



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### Unique Qualities of CAC Child Trafficking Protocols: Forensic Interviews



CACs strive to conduct only one Forensic Interview for victims of sexual abuse. There is an expectation of the need for *extended and multiple forensic interviews* with child trafficking cases.

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### Unique Qualities of CAC Child Trafficking Protocols: Victim Advocacy



The Victim Advocacy is the point person for the child victim of abuse. For trafficking cases the VA's role may be *minimized* for several reasons including the victim's reluctance to trust or rely on anyone.



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### Unique Qualities of CAC Child Trafficking Protocols: Medical



For child sex abuse cases medical exams are seen as helpful. For trafficking cases the medical exam may create *safety issues* that need to be considered; and *may be the only time the victim is truly separate* from anyone associated with the trafficking.

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### Unique Qualities of CAC Child Trafficking Protocols: Mental Health



Support for trauma is a foundation of the CAC work. For trafficking victims there is *reluctance to trust a mental health provider*. Within the CAC and MDT there is a need for providers with experience in *complex trauma* who can help the child see that they are not willing participants in their victimization.

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### Unique Qualities of CAC Child Trafficking Protocols: Last 4 National Standards



- Case Review-** The case review, like the MDT, needs to include unique CT partners.
- Data** – CACs need to differentiate CT cases within their sex abuse case reports.
- Organizational Capacity** – Special training and staffing may be required depending on the CACs case load.
- Child-focused Setting** – CACs need to provide comfortable space for adolescent victims.

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## Your Questions

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Thank you!

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