



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF HIDALGO & STARR COUNTY, INC.

05/14/2010

Board Members

- Bobby Garcia, President
- Uma Martin V.P.
- Lorena Castillo, Treasurer
- Sandra Garcia, Secretary

Hidalgo County Board Members

- State Representative, District 11
- State Representative, District 12
- State Representative, District 13
- State Representative, District 14
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State County Board Members

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Associate Board Members

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Executive Director:

Roberto M. Garcia, MPA

Attn: Honorable Rene A. Ramirez
 Hidalgo County Judge
 100 E. Cano, Second Floor
 Edinburg, TX 78539

Dear Judge:

It is that time of the year when the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) requests funding assistance from the County Judge based on Section 381.004 (f) of the Local Government Code that reads as follows: "The commissioner's court of a county may support a children's advocacy center that provides services to abused children." As you may know, last year the commissioners' court and Judge Salinas supported the center in the amount of \$45,000. It is my understanding that The Unclaimed Property Division Department recently has been averaging about \$50,000 in this particular fund. I spoke with Larry Schilhabel from the Unclaimed Property Division. He told me that a letter will go out to you on/or before the first week of June detailing the amount available. They are in the process of making the determination of that amount.

The CAC's mission is to reduce the emotional trauma to child abuse victims by facilitating a multidisciplinary team approach, which supports the prevention of child abuse through community education and promotes the effective prosecution of those who perpetrate crimes against children. Last year alone, more than 1,611 new child abuse cases were reported to the Children Advocacy Center of Hidalgo County. The serious nature of this problem is of major concern because children in our community are being victimized and robbed of their childhood. We have an obligation as a community non-profit to recognize and deal with the perpetuating cycle of abuse. Studies show that abused children who get early professional assistance are more likely to succeed in dealing and coping with the abuse. With early intervention, we can help break the cycle of abuse and, more importantly, significantly increase a child's chances of becoming a healthy adult and a good parent.

However, we currently find ourselves fiscally stressed and operating with a 15% budget decrease for the first time in eight years, as we struggle through a severe and extended recession. With slow economic growth, the prospects of private donations have been decreased by 97% year-to-date. As we navigate the unfamiliar tides for our current budget and the never ending demand for child abuse services we are formally requesting funding support from **Funding Source 381.004 of the Local Government Code in the amount of \$50,000.**

The requested funding will continue to put us in the forefront of providing vital services by filling needed child forensic interviews, medical, and mental health services to child abuse victims throughout Hidalgo County. It is our sincere belief that a community united together to combat child abuse can provide a possible higher quality of life and a safer place to live in for all children. We are extremely appreciative of your and the county commissioners' unwavering commitment, support in the fight against child abuse. Thank you for being a champion for Kids!

We look forward to working with you in a productive partnership so we can sow the seeds of hope in rebuilding victims' lives; helping them re-join the community; and in developing trust and confidence in the criminal justice system. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to call me at (956) 287-9754. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank you for your time, your consideration, and your help in fighting the scourge of child abuse.

Thank You and God Bless

 Roberto M. Garcia, Executive Director-CACHC