

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF HIDALGO COUNTY, INC.

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Executive Officers:

Lorena Castillo, President
Rick Guerrero, Vice-President
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November 7, 2018

Honorable Ramon Garcia
Hidalgo County Judge
2818 S Bus. Hwy. 281
Edinburg, TX 78539

Hidalgo County Board Members:

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RE: 381.004 (f) of the Local Government Code

Dear Judge Ramon Garcia:

It is the time of year when the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) requests funding assistance from appropriate sources and we are reaching out to you for consideration. Section 381.004 (f) of the Local Government Code: states *"The commissioners' court of a county may support a Children's Advocacy Center that provides services to abused children."* Last year, commissioners' court supported the center and this year in the amount of **\$50,000**. We are respectfully requesting the same level of funding for this FY 2018-19.

Starr County Board Members:

Omar Escobar, DA
Miguel Villarreal

The funding received last year provided resources to reach **1,608 children** affected by child abuse; a **21% increase** from our FY2017. At the same time we were able to expand our mental health services and implemented a Play Therapy program to better serve children ages 2-8 years old. Traditional counseling is not effective for young children and expressing themselves through play comes natural making Play Therapy the ideal approach.

Executive Director:

Jesus A. Sanchez

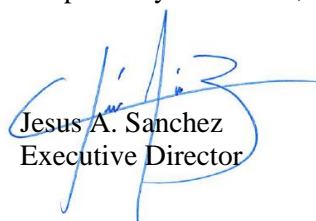
CAC, is a community-based nonprofit, provides coordinated team investigations, forensic interviews, family advocacy, immediate crisis intervention, counseling, case reviews, case tracking and follow-up services using a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach. We work in collaboration with law enforcement, Child Protective Services, and the District Attorney's Office to coordinate a quick response and provide needed services to the victim and non-offending family members of Hidalgo County. We are excited to report that in addition to the services outlined above, we will begin providing forensic exams, which will be critical to collect evidence to prosecute child abuse cases and to evaluate the health of the children. These services are especially critical to have in place for the families that we see who are mostly from low economic populations and who may not otherwise have access to them at no cost. This one-stop full service approach helps us to bring Hope, Healing and Justice to children and families affected by child abuse.



Studies show that abused children who get early professional assistance are more likely to succeed in dealing and coping with the trauma of abuse and do better later in their adult lives. 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, a good parent, and a citizen that is able to positively contribute back to the community.

Do not hesitate to contact me at (956) 287-9754 if you have any questions. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank you for your time, your consideration and your support.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jesus A. Sanchez
Executive Director