

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

THE STATE OF GEORGIA



Child Advocacy Community Partnership Panel

THE STATE OF GEORGIA



2017 The Summit *Georgia's Child Welfare Conference*



Shontel Wright

Program Director

shontel.wright@cjcc.ga.gov

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council | www.cjcc.ga.gov

104 Marietta St. NW | Suite 440 | Atlanta, GA 30303

Phone 404.657.1961 | Fax 404.657.1957



2017 The Summit *Georgia's Child Welfare Conference*



Jay Neal, Executive Director
Steven Hatfield, Deputy Director

Child Abuse Unit

Robert Thornton, Division Director
Shontel Wright, Program Director
Jonathan Peart, Child Abuse Supervisor
Nikitris Deloach, Planning & Policy Development Specialists
Carlyle Roberts, Grants Specialists
LaTonya Smith, Grants Specialists



2017 The Summit *Georgia's Child Welfare Conference*



Dannielle Lewis

Training and Outreach Coordinator

dannielle.lewis@cjcc.ga.gov

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council | www.cjcc.ga.gov

104 Marietta St. NW | Suite 440 | Atlanta, GA 30303

Phone 404.657.2075 | Fax 404.463.7652 | 800.547.0060

**GEORGIA CRIME VICTIMS
COMPENSATION PROGRAM**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL



CJCC's Victims Compensation Division



CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION PROGRAM



The VC program can pay up to \$25,000 to help victims and witnesses of violent crimes cover expenses for medical, mental health counseling, funeral and crime scene sanitization expenses, as well as loss of income or support.

FORENSIC INTERVIEWS



The FI program can pay up to \$200 per victim per victimization. The FI is for the identification of services for a minor victim or developmentally disabled adult.

FORENSIC MEDICAL EXAMINATION



The FME program can pay up to \$1,000 per victim per victimization. FMEs address the immediate needs of victims of sexual assault to ensure they get the help they need.

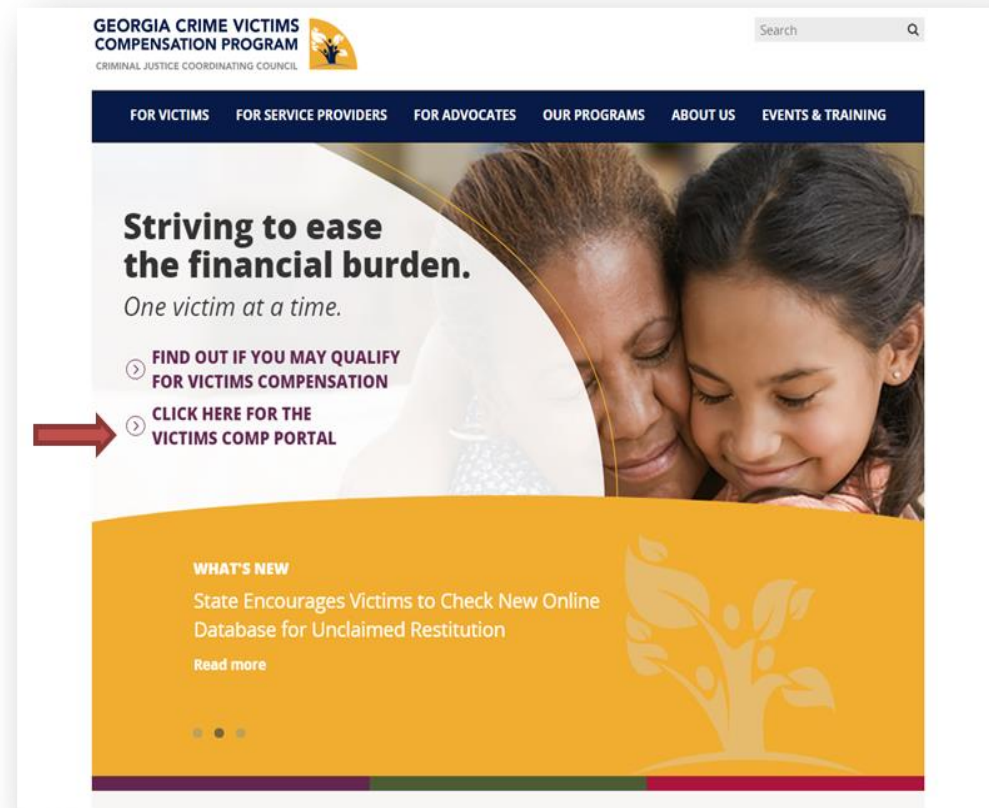
CJCC's Victims Compensation Division



NEW

VICTIMS COMP PORTAL

- Submit online applications
- Obtain real time bill and status updates
- Manage organization's users and administrative access
- Spend less time to paperwork
- Spend less on postage and printing costs



crimevictimscomp.ga.gov

VICTIMS COMP DIVISION NUMBERS SFY 2016



\$17,739,860
Awarded



147
Counties
Served



14,321
Applications
Received



1179
Influencers Educated
through outreach and training

2017 The Summit *Georgia's Child Welfare Conference*



Jennifer King

Program Operations Director

jking@gacasa.org

Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc. | www.gacasa.org

75 Marietta St. NW | Suite 404 | Atlanta, GA 30303

Phone 404.874.2888 | Fax 404.874.2889 | 800.251.4012



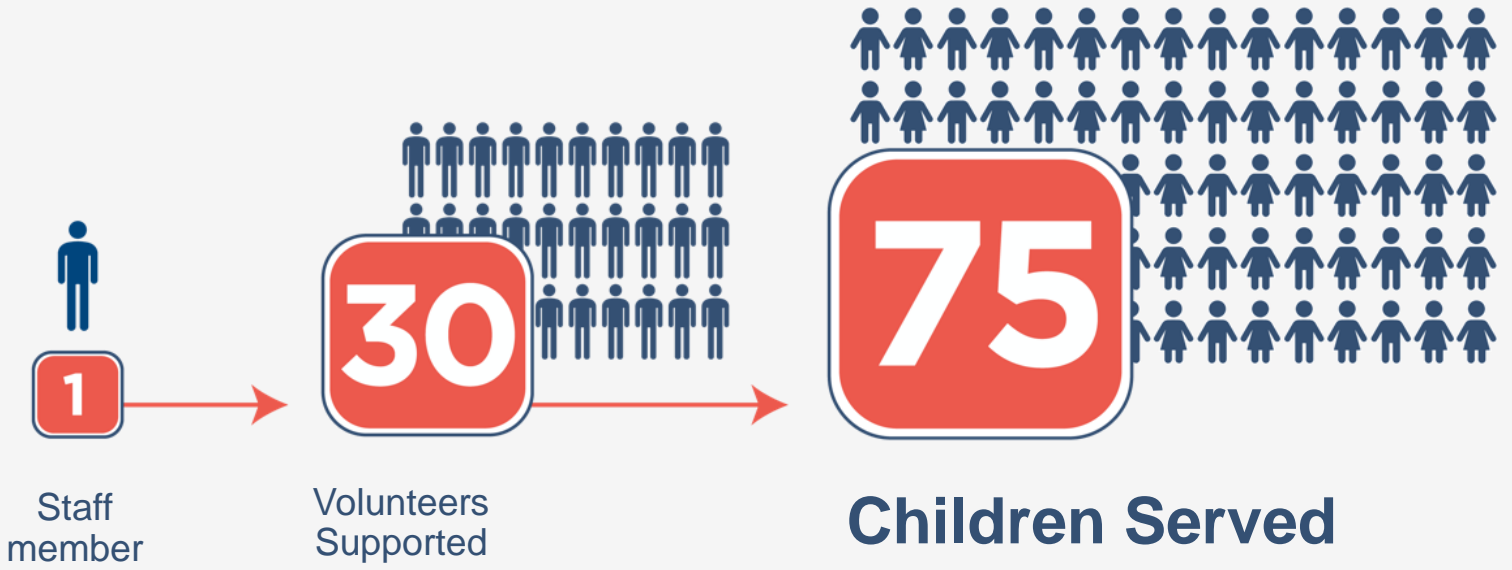
The Unique Role of CASA Volunteers

A CASA Volunteer:

- Is appointed by the Court to provide information specific to the best interests of the child
- Focuses on the unique child
- Gives individualized attention
- Develops a supportive relationship with the child as a consistent champion
- Promotes safety, permanency and well-being in and out of the courtroom
- Reviews all information related to the child, remains objective and respects boundaries
- Provides first-hand, independent information and recommendations to the Court
- Engages the community in the child welfare system and maximizes community resources and support



The CASA Model

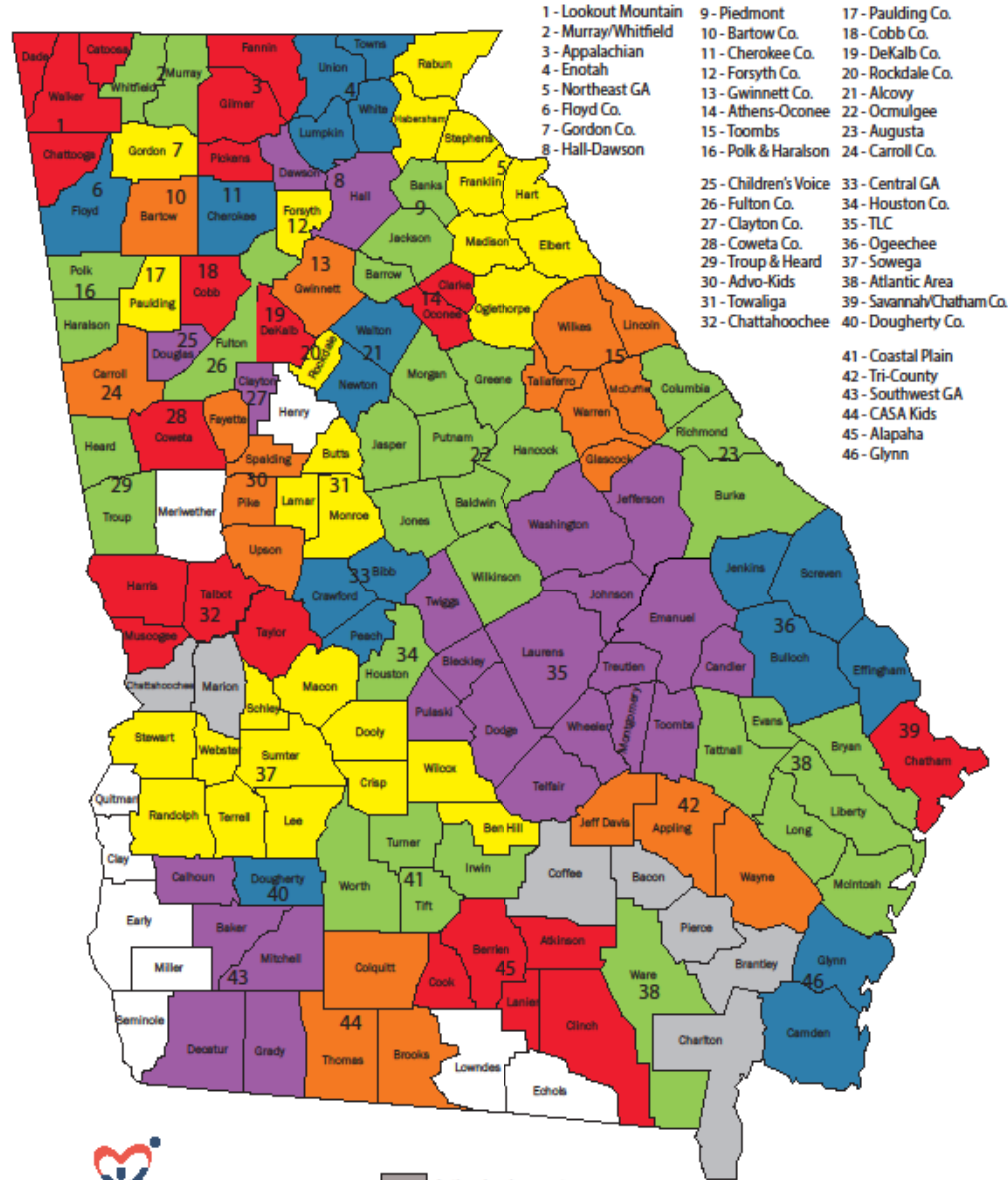


1 Paid Staff Member

- Manages a team of up to 30 skilled, experienced, and diversified adults
- Provides expertise in court practice, child welfare policy, and local resources
- Provides encouragement, development, appreciation, redirection, and connectedness
- Fosters relationships with volunteers as well as court, DFCS, attorneys, and other stakeholders



CASA Affiliate Coverage



Various Ways CASA Volunteers Can Assist

- Obtain educational/medical/therapeutic records and provide summaries
- Advocate for child's educational needs in schools
- Advocate for the child's medical needs with physicians
- Advocate for the child's therapeutic needs with counselors/psychologists/psychiatrists
- Assist with locating relative/fictive kin for possible placement or for building connections for youth
- Assist with making referrals for particular services needed
- Help a child transition from one placement to another
- Support DFCS case manager by keeping a child company while placements are being located and/or accompanying on visit



2017 The Summit *Georgia's Child Welfare Conference*



Nancy Chandler

Contractor

nancy@nchandler.com

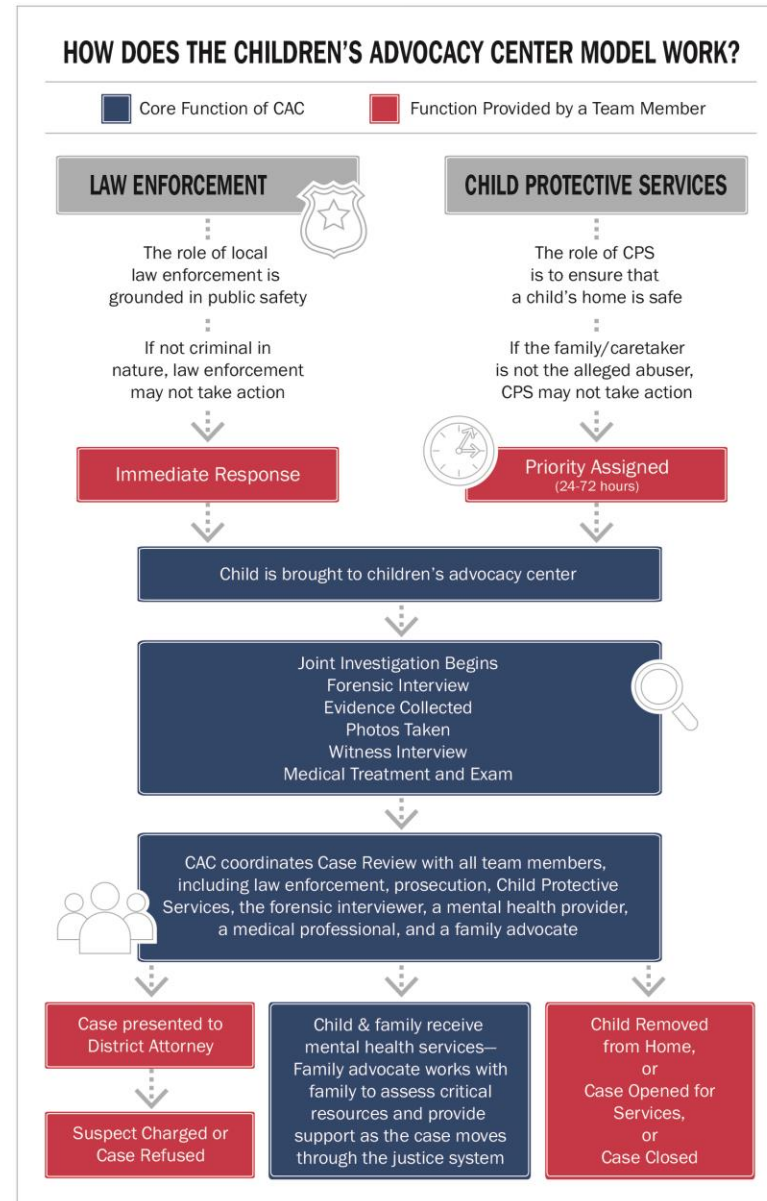
Children's Advocacy Center of Georgia, Inc. | www.cacga.org

127 Church Street | Suite 250 | Marietta, GA 30060

Phone 770.319.6888 | Fax 678.401.5955



The Children's Advocacy Center Model



What do our children say about the CAC?



2017 The Summit *Georgia's Child Welfare Conference*



Dan Hillman

Executive Director

dhillman@childrenrichment.org

Child Enrichment, Inc. | www.childrenrichment.org

Post Office Box 12036 | Augusta, GA 30914

Phone 706.737.4631 | Fax 706.737.8977



2017 The Summit *Georgia's Child Welfare Conference*



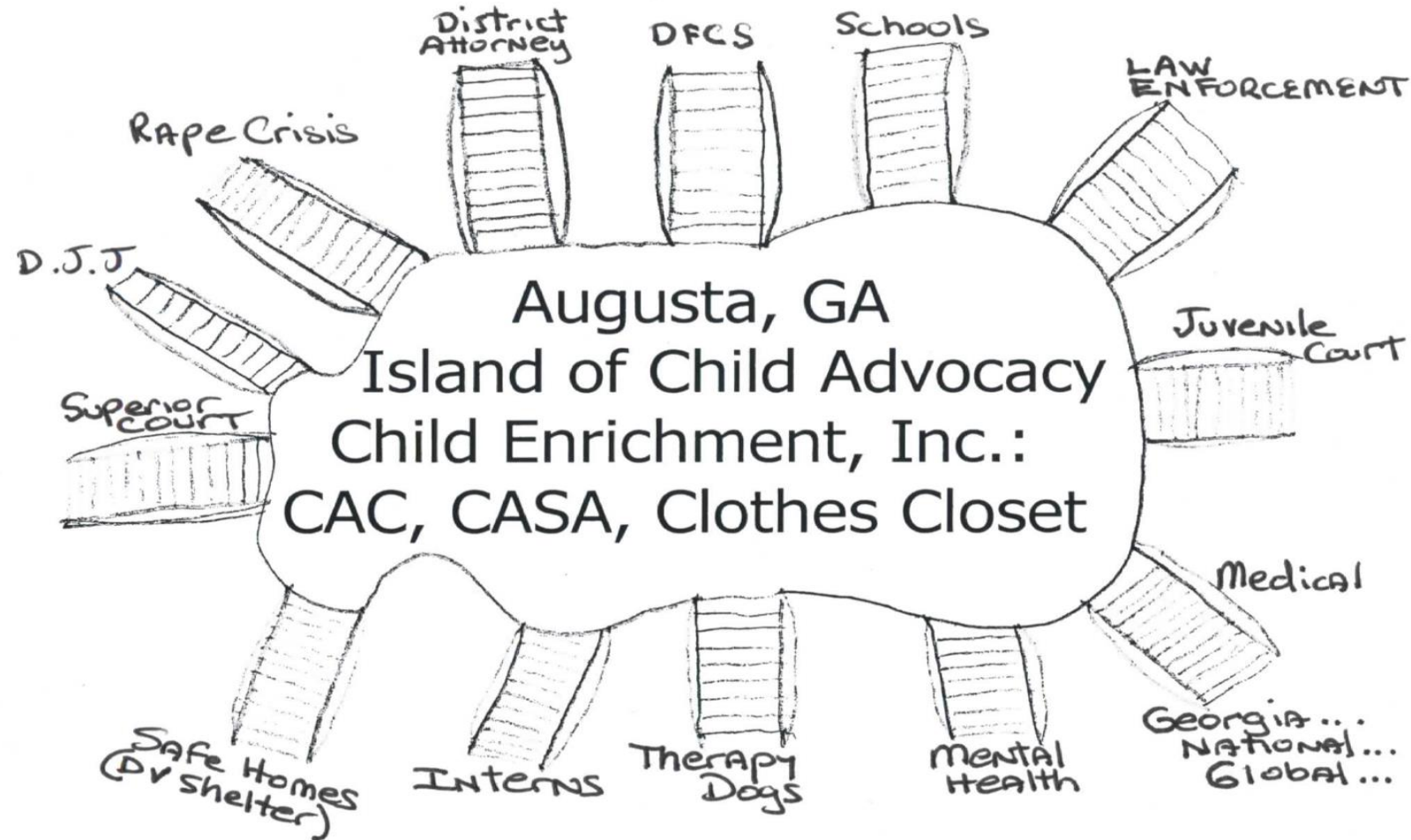
We're all safe... as long as we reside on the Island of Child Advocacy. Like all of us in this room... we are like-minded individuals who protect children. Yet, our island is small, and we must connect with the mainland to work to protect all children.... We have no boat, so we must utilize Bridges to span the gaps.



Bridging the Gaps in Child Advocacy...

- When you GOOGLE that.... Over 700,000 sources appear in 7.8 seconds
- Gaps galore...
- Yet, we are safe on our island
- What do we need ?... What's the goal ?
- Abuse; Severe Neglect; Abandonment; Exploitation and Sexual Abuse are our targets... can we protect ? ... will we ever prevent most cases ?
- Saving the lives of children ?... Or just some of them ?
- The bar is low, it's as if a child not dying is a success.
- And, Child Sexual abuse is the hidden epidemic ...

The Augusta Island of Child Advocacy

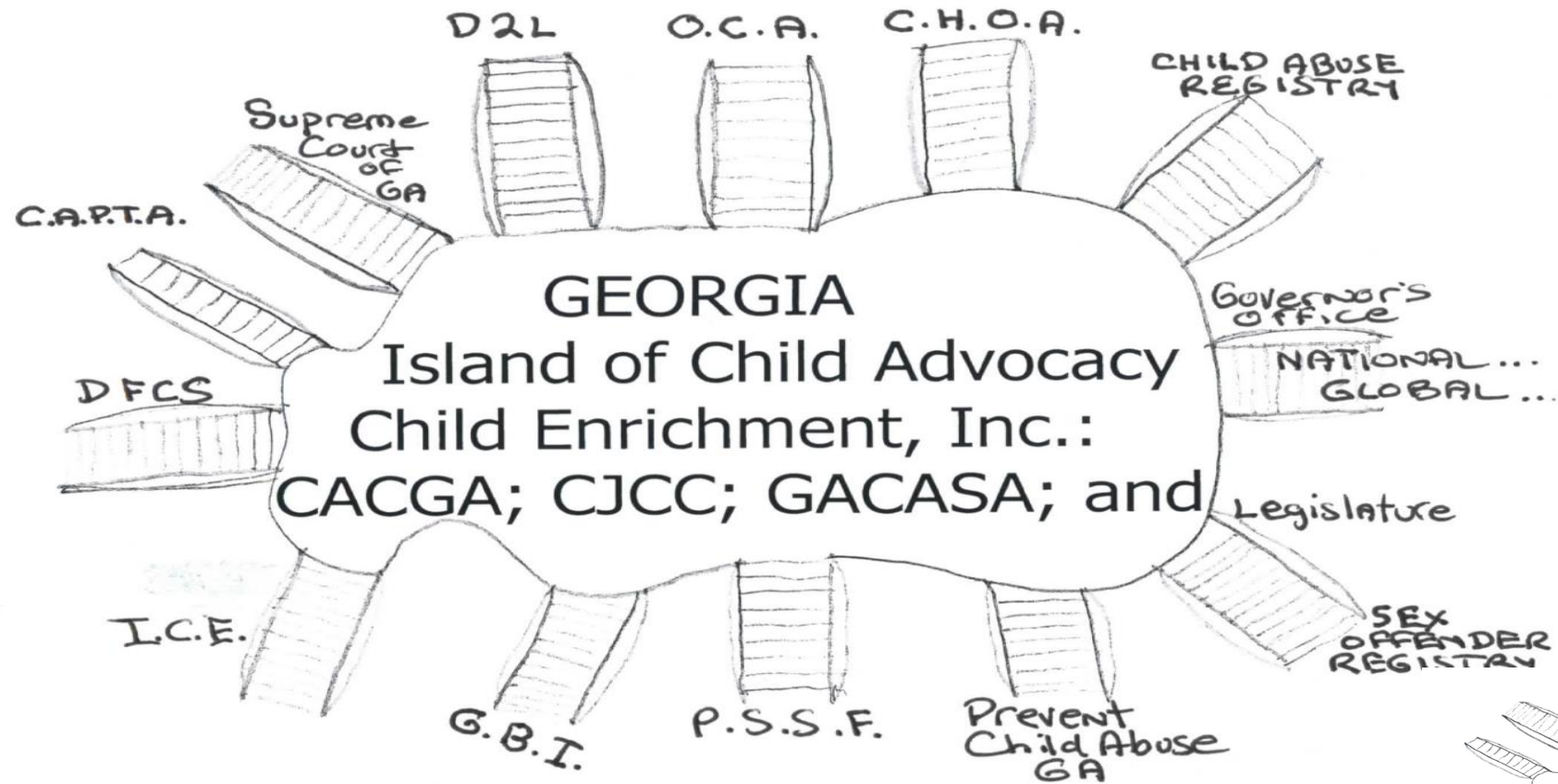


The Augusta Island of Child Advocacy

- The Glass is Over Half Full... yet, there have been challenges. Child Enrichment served 903 child victims of maltreatment: CASA – 432; CAC 471; Clothing for children in need: 655, just last year
- Is keeping a child safe the ultimate child advocacy goal... is that the high bar ?
- **Most serious cases: In a three month period during 2012, Seven children died in Richmond County Georgia:**
 - Tyasia Michelle Phillips, Age 4, Died 3-17-12 VIOLENT HOMICIDE
 - Daniel Isaac Stocker, Age 2, Died 3-21-12 – DROWNING – PARENTAL NEGLECT
 - Hunter Eugene Morris, Age 10, Died 3-26-12 VIOLENT HOMICIDE
 - Drake Noel-Leon Lambert, Age 3 mos, 17 Days, Died 4-1-2012 UNDETERMINED
 - Nicholas Womack, Jr., Age 5 Months, Died 4-15-2012 SEVERE NEGLECT
 - Jonathan W. Shuker, Age 3, Died 6-28-12 ACCIDENTAL DROWNING.
 - Harmony Palmer, Age 3 months 21 days, Died 6-14-12 NATURAL ?
- In 2013, a family moved from Columbia County to Richmond County, three days later a 4 year old female neighbor was sexually abused by a boy who had been reported to Columbia County DFCS eighteen times for allegedly sexually abusing his siblings, children in his school and his neighbors. Each report was determined as “Unsubstantiated.” The DFCS Director was later promoted. The 13 year old perpetrator was charged with Aggravated sexual battery, one of the “seven deadly sins” in Georgia that allow authorities to charge children as young as 13 as adults
- Our coroner told me: “The only thing worse than a child abuse death, is having to drive away from a crime scene knowing the children there are not safe.”



The Georgia Island of Child Advocacy



The Georgia Island of Child Advocacy

- The Bridges are strong, and many more are being constructed and reinforced at this time
- **Nancy and Jen** have worked for over a decade in Georgia building and promoting team approaches to child advocacy
- CJCC has championed efforts to fund programs which protect children, prevent abuse, and to served those victims who are attempting to recover from physical and sexual abuse and severe neglect. **Shontel and Danielle** have described their efforts, and all providers of services to child victims in Georgia are thankful for the support.
- As we crawl forward... bringing awareness and education, we will gain allies and build a foundation to guarantee that services will be available for the child victims of the future.
- Working with our allies and collaborators is rewarding, this conference is proof.
- **There is much more to do and challenges to confront:**
- The Georgia Supreme Court ruled the Child Hearsay Statute unconstitutional in it's 2012 ruling: Hatley vs The State
This is the single most significant limitation placed on prosecuting alleged perpetrators of young children. If the child does not testify, neither will the Forensic Interviewer; Therapist; or LEO; who heard the child describe the alleged abuse that they suffered. (Sixth amendment of the U.S Constitution, the "confrontation clause)
- There are over 14,000 children in Foster Care in Georgia
- Adoptions are too few for the vast number of children who are available to be adopted.



Resources for Child Advocates

- **ALWAYS REPORT IF YOU SUSPECT... THAT A CHILD MAY HAVE BEEN ABUSED OR IS AT RISK !**
GEORGIA 1-855-422-4453 24 Hour Hot Line
- Georgia's Office of the Child Advocate: <http://oca.georgia.gov>
- CJCC Georgia: <https://cjcc.georgia.gov/>
- Georgia CASA: <https://www.gacasa.org/> National CASA Association: www.casaforchildren.org/
- Child Advocacy Centers of Georgia: www.cacga.org/
- National Children's Alliance: www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/
- Darkness to Light: Stewards for Child... Child Abuse Prevention program: www.D2L.org
- Child Help USA National Hotline: www.ChildHelpUSA.org
- The American Academy of Pediatrics: <https://www.aap.org/>
- National Child and Human Trafficking Hotline: 1.888.373.7888 www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking
- National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence Across the Lifespan: <https://www.npeiv.org/a-national-plan>
- **The Rape Crisis and Domestic Violence organizations in YOUR county**
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: 1.800.843.5678
- Dan Hillman... If I Don't Know, I Will Find Out ! dhillman@childrenrichment.org



2017 The Summit *Georgia's Child Welfare Conference*



FOR THE CHILD



Connect With Us!



Facebook

[facebook.com/gacjcc/](https://www.facebook.com/gacjcc/)



Twitter

[@gacjcc](https://twitter.com/gacjcc)



LinkedIn

**Criminal Justice
Coordinating Council**



<http://cjcc.georgia.gov/>