

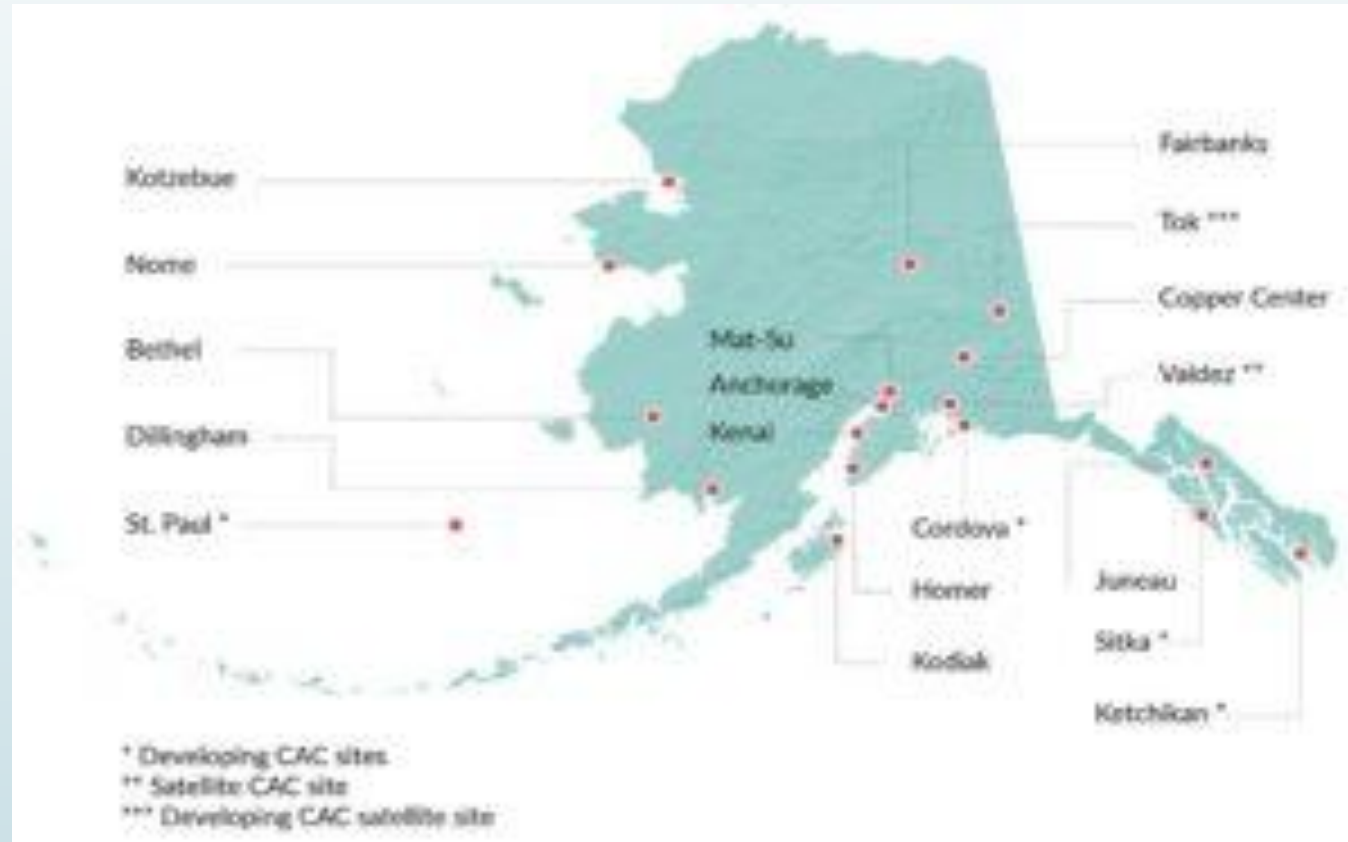
How Child Advocacy Centers Work and Intersect with ICWA

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Kawerak, Inc.

Child Advocacy Centers in Alaska



What is a Child Advocacy Center? Alaska Children's Alliance



A dark blue arrow points to the right at the top left. Below it, several thin, curved lines in shades of blue and grey sweep across the left side of the slide.

National Children's Alliance (NCA)

- NCA is the national association and accrediting body for a network of 9 Children's Advocacy Centers—CACs. The NCA provides support, advocacy, quality assurance, and national leadership for CACs, all to help support the important work that CACs do in communities across the country. CACs provide a coordinated, evidence-based response to children who have been abused in all 50 states.



NCA Membership Types

- **Accredited:** The CAC and Multidisciplinary Team meet each of the 10 Standards for Accreditation. The standards ensure that child abuse victims receive effective, efficient, and compassionate services.
- **Associate/Developing:** CACs that are working toward, but have not yet achieved, implementation of all Standards for Accreditation.
- **Affiliate:** Multidisciplinary Teams that are working to improve services through a collaborative approach to intervention.
- **Satellite:** Child Friendly facilities offering onsite interviews and victim advocacy services under and Accredited center.



NCA Accreditation Standards

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



Alaska Child Advocacy Centers (Developing, Satellite Affiliate, Associate, Accredited)

Kotzebue	Fairbanks	Cordova
Nome	Anchorage	Hooper Bay
Bethel	Copper Center	Ketchikan
Dillingham	Kenai	Sitka
Mat-Su	Homer	St. Paul
Juneau	Kodiak	Tok



Alaska Child Advocacy Centers (cont.) Developing and Satellite

- **St. Paul (Developing)**
- **Sitka (Developing)**
- **Ketchikan (Developing)**
- **Cordova (Developing)**
- **Valdez (Satellite)**
- **Tok (Developing Satellite)**

Alaska Children's Alliance

NCA AK Accredited Chapter

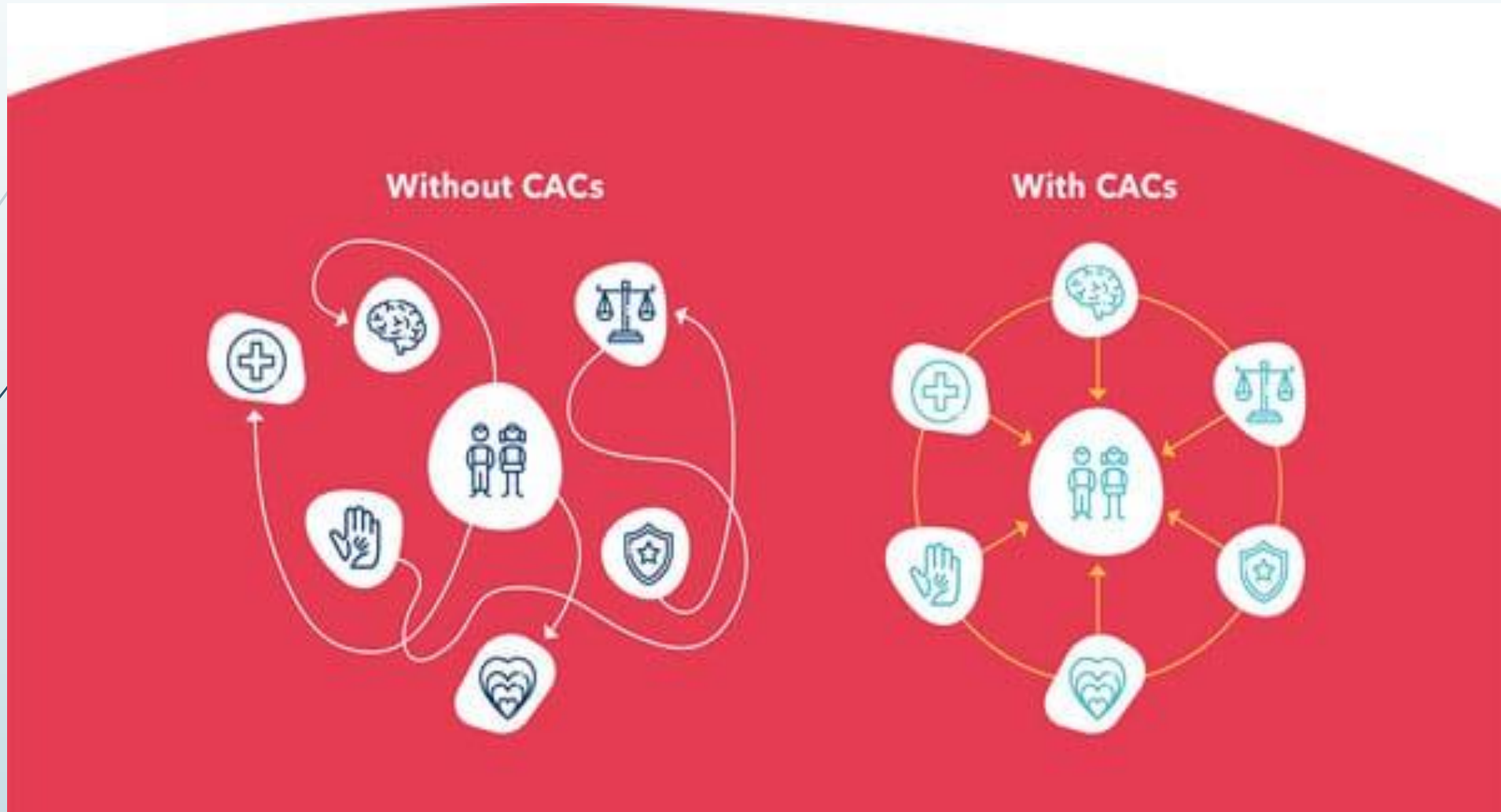
- Supports AK CACs by providing:
 - Tailored Technical Assistance
 - Training
 - Peer Review & Case Consultation Groups
 - Network Building
 - Advocacy & Education



Why Use the CAC Model?



Why Use a Child Advocacy Center?

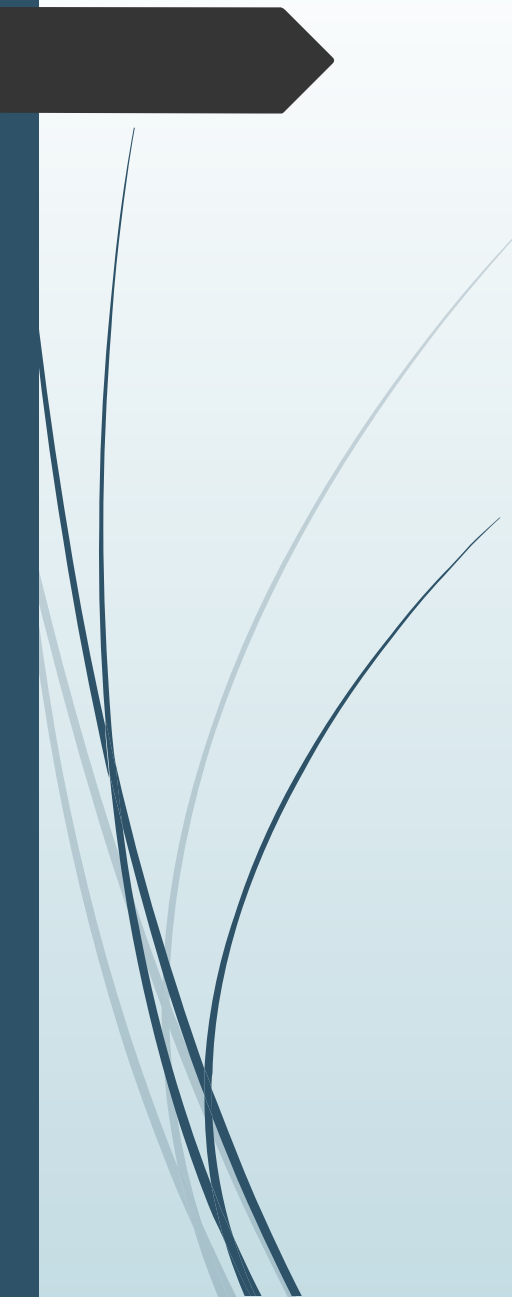




Alaska Statute 47.14.300

Multidisciplinary Child Protection Teams

(a) The department shall create multidisciplinary child protection teams to assist in the evaluation and investigation of reports made under AS 47.17 (child protection) and to provide consultation and coordination for agencies involved in child protection cases under AS 47.10 (Child in Need of Aid).



(b) A team created under (a) of this section may invite other persons to serve on the team who have knowledge of and experience in child abuse and neglect matters. These persons may include:

Mental & Physical Health Practitioners	District Attorney's Office
Child Development Specialists	Attorney General's Office
Educators	Persons Familiar with ICWA
Peace Officers	Guardians ad litem
Victim Counselors	CAC Staff
Substance Abuse Experts	



Bering Strait Regional MDT

- CAC Staff (Director, Manager, Educator, Clinician, Advocate)
- NSHC BHS, SART, & Social Services
- District Attorney's Office
- Office of Children's Services
- Alaska State Troopers
- Nome Police Department
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Assistant Attorney General
- Children and Family Services (ICWA)



Kawerak Child Advocacy Center Staff

- Director: Supervise staff, facilitate MDT, manage finances, provide training, conduct forensic interviews, etc.
- Manager: Write and manage grants, conduct forensic interviews, enter case information into database, supervise advocates and educator.
- Advocate: Set up appointments, explain process to family, meet with non-offending caregiver during forensic interview, explain victim rights, follow-up with family to refer for services.
- Educator: Provide education and outreach to community partners, entities, and schools. Conduct forensic interviews as needed.
- Clinician: Provide victim support during interview and brief intervention as needed. Provide evidence-based treatment, coordinate behavioral health referrals, and follow-up with families.

Law Enforcement



- Investigate and determine whether a crime has been committed. Interview victim, witnesses, and suspects. Conduct a crime scene investigation and collect and preserve evidence. Present evidence and assessment of whether a crime has occurred to the prosecution. Participate in forensic interview.





Department of Juvenile Justice

- DJJ is responsible for both reporting child abuse and neglect of its clients and for prosecution of juveniles who have allegedly committed offenses that would be crimes if committed by an adult, including sexual abuse offenses. DJJ receives referrals directly from law enforcement regarding sexual abuse offenses committed by juveniles to determine whether there is sufficient admissible evidence to support a formal adjudication. DJJ will also consider the minor's age, maturity level, emotional and intellectual capacity, family circumstances, and prior personal victimization, among other factors, to determine whether formal or informal action should be taken. The goals of DJJ are to hold these juveniles accountable for their behavior, provide for their victims, and assist the juveniles and their family to gain skills to prevent further offenses.

Office of Children's Services

- All reports of abuse (or suspected abuse) must be called into OCS intake. Determine safety of child and if needed, develop a plan of action to keep child safe. Referrals to and participation at the CAC for interviews and exams. OCS may continue to work with the family if LE closes the case.



District Attorney's Office

- Evaluate the evidence provided by law enforcement and other MDT members and determine whether to proceed with prosecution. File charges and proceed with legal actions of prosecuting. Educate jury about reactions to child sexual abuse (CSA).



Norton Sound Health Corporation Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

- The medical professional on the MDT provides a skilled and comprehensive medical evaluation, with forensic evidence collection, and documentation with photos. Participates in the forensic interview. Communicates with MDT members regarding results of exam.



NSHC Behavioral Health Services

- Provide education for the MDT regarding mental/emotional needs of child victims and family members. May assist with vicarious trauma and related issues for members of the MDT team. May observe and offer support during forensic interview. Provide emergency on-call services.





Victim Advocacy Services

- Educate and facilitate communication between child, caregiver, and MDT members and to provide other support as needed.
- Ongoing education and problem-solving support related to the child's emotional and behavioral needs, and facilitating referrals for the child or caregiver.
- Preparing the caregiver and child witnesses for court and for meetings with the District Attorney and advocating for the child with other agencies, including the child's school.
- Follow-up with families at regular intervals as needed to assist with linkage to mental health services, domestic violence advocacy, housing, financial support, and other community resources.

Kawerak Children and Family Services (ICWA)



- Provide an ICWA representative to participate in the CAC MDT meetings as needed. Provide program information to Tribes about the CAC. Accept CAC referrals for parent support and parenting services when and if available in the community. Provide advocacy services as needed. Work to increase awareness and visibility in the villages.



Case Procedures

- ❑ Referrals: OCS, Law Enforcement (AST or NPD), BHS, Teachers/School Counselors.
- ❑ Schedule interview/medical exam with involved MDT members.
- ❑ Contact parent/guardian to explain CAC procedures and process and what to expect.
- ❑ Interview, Medical Exam, and referrals to an organization that is appropriate for each case.
- ❑ Provide advocacy and set up referrals for post CAC treatment, appointments and follow-ups. Potentially provide legal advocacy.