HOW DOES THE CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER MODEL WORK?

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**
- The role of local law enforcement is grounded in public safety
  - If not criminal in nature, law enforcement may not take action
- Immediate Response

**CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES**
- The role of CPS is to ensure that a child’s home is safe
  - If the family/caretaker is not the alleged abuser, CPS may not take action
- Priority Assigned (24-72 hours)

Child is brought to children’s advocacy center

Joint Investigation Begins
- Forensic Interview
- Evidence Collected
- Photos Taken
- Witness Interview
- Medical Treatment and Exam

CAC coordinates Case Review with all team members, including law enforcement, prosecution, Child Protective Services, the forensic interviewer, a mental health provider, a medical professional, and a family advocate

Case presented to District Attorney
- Suspect Charged or Case Refused
- Child & family receive mental health services—Family advocate works with family to assess critical resources and provide support as the case moves through the justice system

Child Removed from Home, or Case Opened for Services, or Case Closed