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AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT; PROVIDING FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS STATEWIDE;
ESTABLISHING MULTIDISCIPLINARY CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATORY
TEAMS IN EACH JUDICIAL DISTRICT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the
"Children's Advocacy Centers Act".

SECTION 2. DEFINITION.--As used in the Children's
Advocacy Centers Act, "center" means a children's advocacy
center, which is an entity that provides a comprehensive
multidisciplinary team response to allegations of child abuse
or neglect in a neutral, child-friendly setting by
representatives of the following fields and professions:

- A. child protective services;
- B. family and victim advocacy;
- C. forensic interviewers;
- D. law enforcement;
- E. medical examiners;
- F. behavioral health; and
- G. services related to those fields and

professions listed in Subsections A through F of this
section.

SECTION 3. CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS--DUTIES.--A

1 center shall:

2 A. be an entity that is a private, incorporated
3 agency, a hospital or a governmental entity;

4 B. have a neutral, child-focused facility where
5 forensic interviews with children take place; provided that
6 all agencies shall have a place to interact with the child as
7 investigative or treatment needs require;

8 C. have a designated staff trained according to
9 standards approved by the national children's alliance;

10 D. have a multidisciplinary team established in
11 accordance with the provisions of the Children's Advocacy
12 Centers Act that meets on a regular basis, at least every
13 other month;

14 E. provide case tracking of child abuse cases seen
15 through the center. Case tracking or data collected shall
16 include:

17 (1) the number of child abuse cases seen at
18 the center;

19 (2) demographic data;

20 (3) the number of cases referred for
21 prosecution; and

22 (4) the number of cases referred for
23 behavioral health services, medical examinations and other
24 related services;

25 F. provide medical examinations or mental health

1 services at the center or provide referrals for medical
2 examinations or mental health therapy provided by an agency
3 not located at the center but with which the center has a
4 memorandum of understanding or interagency agreement;

5 G. provide family and victim advocacy services to
6 a child and to a non-offending caregiver of the child;

7 H. facilitate the provision of training of center
8 staff and multidisciplinary team members; and

9 I. adhere to the national children's alliance
10 standards.

11 SECTION 4. MULTIDISCIPLINARY CHILD ABUSE TEAMS--
12 ESTABLISHMENT--MEMBERSHIP--DUTIES.--

13 A. The following persons shall comprise a
14 multidisciplinary child abuse investigation team in each
15 judicial district in the state:

16 (1) the district attorney of the judicial
17 district in which the team is created and established, or the
18 district attorney's designee;

19 (2) a representative from the protective
20 services division of the children, youth and families
21 department, appointed by the director of the division or the
22 director's designee;

23 (3) a representative from a center that
24 exists in the judicial district in which the team is located;
25 and

1 (4) the following members, appointed by the
2 agency head or designee of the following agencies:

3 (a) a representative from each law
4 enforcement agency within the judicial district;

5 (b) medical personnel with expertise
6 and certification in pediatric sexual assault, child physical
7 abuse and neglect identification or treatment;

8 (c) a mental health service provider
9 with training and experience in evidence-supported trauma-
10 focused cognitive behavioral therapy; and

11 (d) a family or victim advocate from an
12 agency designated for advocacy services in that judicial
13 district.

14 B. The following multidisciplinary child abuse
15 investigation team members shall be present before a forensic
16 interview can take place:

17 (1) the center's forensic interviewer; and

18 (2) when available and as appropriate:

19 (a) a representative from law
20 enforcement; and

21 (b) the representative from the
22 protective services division of the children, youth and
23 families department.

24 C. A multidisciplinary child abuse investigation
25 team shall:

